Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

Vol. XLII. Augusta, Maine, Saturday Morning, February 21, 1874. No. 12.

Maine Farmer.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

Board of Agriculture at Wiscasset.

But two localities, Waterville and Wiscasset, extended invitations to the Board of Agriculture for the holding of its winter session. And while the committee felt satisfied one of the points aimed at as part of the conditions, would be reached at the former more than at the latter place—viz. the prospect of a large attendance of interested practical farmers; they were also aware that the meeting of the Board last winter, was held in Kennebec county, and a year ago last fall in Skowhegan, within the near vicinity of Waterville. And while no meeting of the Board had been held in Lincoln county, and the desire of the farmers in that section was strong for the session to be there, yet the committee were satisfied that on some accounts it would be far more pleasant to have a fall than a winter meeting at that place. However, after a full consideration of the matter, Wiscasset was decided upon as the point of meeting, not only because no session of the Board had ever been held in Lincoln county, but because it was hoped the meeting would aid the work of the county Ag'l and Hort. Society which is now endeavoring to develope more interest in the advancement of a better system of farming in that section. And it must be admitted by all who attended the meeting of the Board at Wiscasset last week, that the decision of the committee was a wise one, for better results could not have followed the session at Waterville or any other locality. The attendance which it had been feared would be small was very satisfactory in numbers and made up almost wholly of "interested, practical farmers," many of whom came from distant parts of the county for the express purpose of gaining profit and instruction from listening to the proceedings. The business sessions of the Board were completely harmonious, and the public meetings well conducted, interesting and profitable. There was no aimless talking, and not a moment from the opening to the closing of the convention was allowed to waste or stand unoccupied. The papers presented by the members of the Board were well written and useful, the discussions animated and instructive, and the lectures delivered by gentlemen from abroad able, instructive and well received. The remark was made several times in speaking of the lecture or address that had been given, "Well, that was worth all the expense of attending the meeting;"—and when discriminating farmers pass such judgements as this, it may be sure they get their money's worth.

As a natural result of the movement for the establishment of cheese factories in Maine, considerable time was occupied in the consideration, directly or indirectly, of the question of dairying and cheese factories. The discussion of the question as to whether we should make butter or cheese, profitably occupied an afternoon, while the lectures of Hon. Harris Lewis on milk, and of Charles L. Flint on the milk secreting organs of the cow, gave positive information upon the subject. Aside from these exercises, the initiatory steps were taken for the formation of a State Dairymen's Association, which will be permanently organized so soon as the charter for the same, now passing the necessary steps of legislation, shall have been granted.

As to purely business matters, there was little for the Board to perform. A vote was passed continuing one fourth of the State bounty to agricultural societies for farm improvements—in accordance with the suggestions of two years ago, this year completing the third year of such offers; and one was also passed leaving discretionary with the several county societies the expenditure of that portion—one fourth—of the stipend, which they have heretofore, in accordance with instructions from the Board, been obliged to expend for the formation and encouragement of Farmers' Clubs. A diversity of opinion existed as to this action, but finally the opinion was unanimous to refer it to the Trustees of the various societies, and there can be no doubt they will expend it judiciously and it will in many cases be appropriated for Farmers' Clubs as before, while in others it will go to the formation of libraries, to the purchase of thoroughbred stock for use by the members of the Society, or for some other distinctive and useful object that needs direct encouragement. It has been found that in some counties Farmers' Clubs do not need the small aid afforded by this means, and in others they have not proved successful—so that no real injury can come from the vote, especially as the sum may still be appropriated for this purpose if the managers so decide. It is probable that the next meeting of the Board will be held at the State College, Orono.

Editorial Notes.

We are not able to give the information requested by our Biddeford correspondent F. Garcelon. All the large lots of pickles grown in this State, were so far as we have been informed, ordered in advance of their growth, and the supply was not equal to the demand.

Having long since sent out the last ear of Egyptian corn, raised the past season by Mr. Seekins of Pittsfield, we must refer recent enquirers to the announcement of Mr. S., which will appear in our advertising columns in due time.

We would inform our querist Mr. S. F. Gilman of North Searsmont, that seed of the American Improved Sugar beet can probably be obtained of Kendall & Whitney, Market Square, Portland. They have lately issued a neat catalogue of seeds, implements, machines &c., which will be forwarded to any address on application. The firm is one of the oldest established and most reliable of the kind in Maine.

Mr. W. H. Moores of Hallowell, informs us that he has a half blood Jersey heifer five years old, which calved Dec. 20th, (and which from a mistake in the noting of time was milked to within five days of the dropping of the calf) that is now giving fourteen quarts of milk per day. But then, the heifer has all the good hay she can eat and in addition seven quarts of corn meal per day; the feed however is more than paid for by the yield of milk.

The St. Albans cheese company held their annual meeting Jan. 17th, and elected the following officers: President, Edson C. Buker, Secretary, Charles Southard; Treasurer, Milton Skinner; Directors, George W. Jones, Maine Wilkins, Daniel Foss.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Our Woods and Forests.

I have noticed in your columns, recently, several articles calling the attention of farmers to the preservation of their wood lots. This is a subject which has received but little attention by many persons owning wood lands, and now a farm without a wood lot can hardly find a purchaser. A thrifty wood lot of ten acres by proper care in cutting out annually the dead and unthrifty trees, will furnish the fuel for a farmer's family without diminishing the amount of wood and timber on his lot. That is, the annual growth will equal the amount cut off. Whereas, without care, it would be entirely stripped of wood in ten or a dozen years.

The farmer who owns a thrifty wood and timber lot is possessed of property that pays him a larger profit than money in a saving's bank. The growth is not the only profit received by the owner of a wood lot. Forty years ago wood could be purchased in this market for one to two dollars per cord, and manufactured lumber at three to fifteen dollars per thousand feet. At the present time hard wood is selling readily in our market at $8.00 per cord and lumber $12 to $45 per thousand feet. A small growth of trees that would sell for second quality of refuse wood, by a few years more growth would make merchantable wood, timber and boards. It does not require so long a period of time for the growth of wood and lumber as many persons would suppose. You stated in the FARMER a few weeks since that it required the life time of a person to grow the pine and oak. If you reckon a life time as allotted by the good book, (70 years,) we should be husbanding our young wood lots for posterity. It is common to find in a thrifty growth of pine, and on a strong soil, oak also, that three rings, (three year's growth) will measure one inch; taking both sides of the tree this gives a growth of two inches in three years. A tree that would be six inches in diameter, and fit for wood only in four or five years more would make eight inch timber worth $20 per thousand, and the top would yield about as much wood as the whole tree contains at the present time. I am cutting on a lot the present winter where there are plenty of pine trees 17 to 18 inches in diameter, while thirty years ago there were no trees on the lot over five feet in height. A few years since I purchased and took off of a twenty-five acre wood lot, 500 cords of wood and 56 thousand of lumber. An old lady from whom I purchased the lot informed me the same land was her father's field, and fifty-two years previous, she had raked hay on it. One of my neighbors also tells me that forty years ago he invested a hundred dollars in a lot of land from which the wood and logs had been cut a short time previous—paying two dollars per acre. This lot is now covered with timber and wood, and he has been offered $40 per acre by several persons. The poorest kind of land, on which nothing but wood will grow, will, in twenty years after the wood is cut off, if the fire does not run over it, afford another crop of wood, yielding fifteen cords per acre, and in ten years more, double that amount.

Instead of mowing over worn out lands, which for want of dressing, will not yield one-fourth of a ton of hay per acre, if this land was allowed to grow up to wood I think it would be a more profitable crop. That we try to cultivate too large an amount of land for the dressing we apply, is evident from the small crops produced. If we cultivated but half the amount of land and applied double the amount of manure we do, we should save nearly half of the hard labor of the present system of farming, and the crop would be as large as we harvest by our present mode of tilling our lands.

Brunswick. M.

For the Maine Farmer.

Plaster as a Manure.

There seems to be little doubt but what plaster, or as it is called by chemists, sulphate of lime, is on some soils an efficient and cheap manure: while on other soils it seems to be of little, or no value, as no difference can be detected in the crops following its use.

Now in order to tell the soil on which it will pay to use it, is a question that we shall have to decide for ourselves; for I am not aware that any man can tell by looking at the soil, where it will pay to use it, or where it will not pay. Therefore, if we would know for a certainty, it is best to try small quantities on different parts of the field; either by sowing on grass lands as a top dressing, or by using as a manure for field crops in different ways, and the answer that you may get will likely be a true one. After you have found where it will pay, then use it liberally, and it may be well to say here that if the crops are all consumed upon the farm, there need be no fears of ruining your farm by using plaster in a judicious manner.

Gypsum—How does it Act?

This question seems to be a hard one to solve, and in fact has never been answered satisfactorily either by agriculturists or chemists, so far as I can learn. Mr. W. T. Early of Virginia, writes under this head, and as it seems to be sound, I will quote some of his ideas. "It is said by a distinguished professor that it is food for plants, or manure. This cannot be true, for generally when applied to land about seventy pounds or a bushel to the acre is found to be sufficient for all purposes and over that amount is a waste of material." By some, it is said that it acts upon the soil mechanically. "This is obviously a mistake, as, everything else being equal, it acts in the same manner upon all soils, the light, loamy, stiff, clayey, sandy or rocky, being equally and in like degree affected by it. And the quantity used, a bushel per acre is too small to have any appreciable mechanical effect upon the soil."

"Others claim that it acts only as a constituent of plants. This cannot be true, because, if it were so, much more than a bushel per acre might profitably be used, as it is perfectly obvious that common manure, bone dusts, and guanos of all kinds, can be used to any extent almost, with results corresponding to amounts used, while in case of plaster, no appreciable results follow beyond a certain quantity."

"Some say it is simply a stimulant of vegetation. This explanation will not do; because there is no doubt plaster permanently improves the soil, if the vegetation produced by it is not removed from the land." The most reasonable answer seems to be that it acts as a condenser, both of ammonia of the atmosphere, and of the soil, and that it holds this most subtle and powerful manure in its grasp fixes it, and gives it up to the growth of plants, as they require it instead of allowing it to pass away. Here are a few words that seem to establish this theory; "If you sow plaster on a heap of manure, steaming and giving off ammonia, it will stop the escape of the gas, until the plaster becomes saturated, and then it will begin to escape again; sow again and it will stop, and so on until all the ammonia is taken up and fixed." And another proof of this is in the fact of its great deodorizing powers. Take Peruvian guano, whose great fertilizing property is ammonia, mix plaster with it in a proper quantity, and it will be inordorous. And so it will be with other manures, either animal or vegetable, which gives off ammonia. It is said that ammonia is the richest portion of all manures, then if plaster will prevent the escape of it we may use it in this direction with a certainty.

North Belgrade. A. B. Faught.

For the Maine Farmer.

Keeping a Diary.

Probably there is nothing of equal importance, more neglected in farm or country life, than the keeping of a diary. A note made of business transactions; the kind and amount of labor daily performed; also the weather peculiarities of the season &c., as a reference, is worth many times the time and trouble taken—which is but little—to write it. Then the little incidents and changes that give variety, and form the lights and shades of the passing days. If a man keeps no diary, the "path crumbles away behind him" and his feet leave it; and the days gone by are little more than a blank, broken by a few dim shadows. This life is nearly all confined within the limits of to-day. Who does not know how imperfect a thing memory is? It not only forgets, it misleads. Things in memory do not merely fade away, they change their aspect, they turn to something quite different from the fact. The picture of the past, which memory unaided by any written record sets before us, is often entirely wrong. How capriciously some events seem quite recent, which the diary shows are really far away; and how unaccountable many things look far away, which in truth are not left many weeks behind us. I think almost every person would be interested in looking back, day by day, upon what he did and thought and the passing events upon that day twelve months, five or ten years. When we look upon the record, all the surroundings of that season are before us, many little things come up again which we know quite well we never would have thought of again, but for a glance at these words, and still which we would be sorry to have forgotten.

Old times come over us, we seem to live those days over again, and to be in the midst of the scenes of that time. In short, most persons after keeping a diary year after year, come to consider it almost indispensable, and its value increasing with increasing years.

Waldo Co. J. F. H.

For the Maine Farmer.

Association among Farmers.

While thinking of the magnitude of the agricultural resources in this state and the vast income to be derived therefrom if properly managed, the question arises; why is it that that portion of our population who are engaged as tillers of the soil, and who hold in their hands the power of developing these resources are not more united in their cause? The farmers of Maine and more especially those who are not able to employ hired help, seem to be satisfied with their isolated condition. Now cannot something be done to rouse them to a sense of their duty towards themselves and their fellow men? Cannot they be made to understand that upon them depends the disclosure of these mines of agricultural wealth. Now will not concerted action among them tend to bring about the desired result? Merchants and other business men have their Boards of Trade and in fact all professions are combined together to advance their common interests. I am well aware that our Maine Board of Agriculture is striving to unite the people and bring order out of a chaotic state of affairs, and were it possible to hold a session in every town in the state, say, once a year it would be impossible to calculate the benefits that would accrue therefrom. But as this is out of the question I appeal to the farmers of Maine to organize themselves together and do something. Let every town and plantation have its Farmers' Club, and then devise something for their mutual benefit; any undertaking, whether for the purpose of improving their farm stock, for buying agricultural implements, or for providing themselves with family stores, will prove of advantage to them. In some localities they are combining for the purpose of Associated Dairying and this is one step in the right direction; improvement of farm stock is another; but these are confined to favored localities. We want it wide spread over our State. We have far too much inferior stock and mixed breeds. In the matter of procuring our family stores and supplies, thousands upon thousands of dollars can be annually saved. One obstacle in the way of combination is that they will not place that confidence in each other as do men of other professions. Perhaps one reason of this is, that not having such a general knowledge of the world as have those of more extended business relations, they are more easily duped by venders of patent rights and others, and thus it makes them naturally suspicious of strangers and of each other. Now in all our relations in life, we are more or less obliged to place confidence in other people and the fact that a person will betray the confidence of one, sooner than he will of many, should convince us more than ever, that in "union there is strength." We need to bring the producer and consumer in direct relation with each other and in order to accomplish this, let *combination* be the text, and let able writers write such sermons from it, that it will infuse into the farmers of Maine and others, a spirit of activity and zeal, so that associations of some kind will be as numerous as the towns in our state. E. F. Hodge.

North Edgecomb.

For the Maine Farmer.

Errors of Farmers.

These long cold evenings give us farmers abundant time to consider a part of the errors in our methods of management, some of which we believe have done much towards pulling the farmer down hill, or rather preventing his getting up hill as fast as he ought. Now I would like to suggest some things we cannot afford.

We cannot afford to go to market so often especially when we have but little to sell. I believe I speak the truth when I say farmers spend one day in every week, marketing, and for those that live eight or ten miles back, it generally spoils the day.

Now comes the question, how much does his average load amount to? I will state it at less than ten dollars and very often not half of that amount. Now it is evident that the farmer cannot afford to make fifty-two trips a year himself and team to sell as little as that. It consumes too much of his time; the wear and tear of his team is too great; and with many it is a mere habit. They sell too little at a time, and buy too small quantities. The habit of buying groceries and other necessary articles for family use by piecemeal is what necessitates such frequent trips to market. It would be far better economy, both in time and money to buy by the quantity, and to sell when we have something worth selling.

I would like to impress another thing upon every farmer; resolve to have your share of the best of all you raise; for it is a fact that the farmer does not always reserve his share of the best products of the farm. It is seldom that he gets anything but the poorest, and I say emphatically,

Farmers ought to Live Better.

Now it is a fact, notwithstanding most of the luxuries, and that which goes to make up a good living, passes through their hands, that farmers as a class are the poorest fed of any. We all understand the difference between a well fed animal and one poorly kept. Does the quality of food have any less effect on the human system? Hence, I say, farmers cannot afford to live poor. I noticed one great mistake among farmers this fall. There has been a large amount of poultry raised this season; none too much however, if it had been properly marketed after having kept a proper amount for home consumption; but most farmers have kept every turkey and chicken until Thanksgiving, then thrust it all upon the market at once.

The result was they found themselves selling poultry at ten cents a pound, that cost them fifteen to raise; many not even sparing any for their own Thanksgiving dinner. Now would it not be vastly better to have marketed say one half the actual amount and realized a fair profit on it. Then if the other half was more than the family required, to have disposed of it occasionally as the market demanded. I know that with those who have raised quite an amount of poultry it has been feed, feed, feed. But after poultry once gets its growth and is in good flesh, a small quantity of grain will suffice to keep it so. Then a considerable amount can be profitably disposed of in a family of half a dozen. Let your salt pork rest in the barrel where it will keep, and place a large sized turkey across your table once a week. It is one of the most healthful kinds of meat and will sometimes cure a family of large boys of the western fever, for it is a fact that nothing goes further toward making people contented than good living.

Once more; farmers ought to be more industrious. I know with some this is not the case, but many who call themselves hard working men, fail to occupy their full time profitably. I do not contend that farmers should spend every hour at hard manual labor, but they cannot afford to spend much of their time sitting around the stove in the country store, hearing each other confess their neighbor's faults or talking of hard times. Though the present financial grip affects all classes, we think the farmer suffers as little from it as any one, and if he will only attend to his business with industry and perseverance he will work his way over this hard spot. S. S.

Litchfield Plains.

For the Maine Farmer.

Hard Times and its Causes.

As I look over the statistics of our State, of its Industries, its Resources and its Wealth, my attention naturally is drawn to look at and consider those interests, which are so closely connected and inseparable with, not only my own, but those of every breeder in the State, viz: the live stock interest. We have of milch cows it seems 126,808, worth $4,538,559, or less than $36 per head, of working oxen 75,503, other cattle 138,479. Value of working oxen and all other cattle $8,345,298. Total value of all the cattle in the State $12,883,857.

We also see that the hay crop amounted to the enormous aggregate of 2,007,000 tons, estimated value of $25,087,500, or something over 12½ dollars per ton.

Now Mr. Editor, when I tell the readers of the FARMER that more than one-half of this vast amount of hay is fed to stock that never pay $7 per ton for what they eat, they will wonder if this is really so, and no doubt there will be many who are ready to question the correctness of the assertion, but very unfortunately such is the case. This being the fact is it any wonder the farmers are crying out "hard times?" And consequently they commence finding fault with somebody or something, either the middlemen are robbing them, or the railroads are consolidating to their harm, by putting up freights or there is some other organization to work their ruin, they will look to all causes but the right one. The true cause of our ill success is right here and we might just as well acknowledge it first as last—we have been "penny wise and pound foolish;" we have not had *faith in our business.*

Now For a Remedy.

Let every town in Maine be supplied with from three to six (say average four) well-bred thoroughbred bulls, and let the farmers patronize those bulls and in ten years from April the cows in Maine will be worth, instead of $36 apiece, $60 each, and a much better bargain to the purchaser, the oxen will be worth $100 per head; and all the other stock will be worth on an average $35, making the total value of neat cattle in the State $20,009,745, or a gain of $7,128,888. It really seems to me that to distribute this amount among the owners of neat stock in the State, they would cease their cry of "hard times," for a while at least. But the gain would not end here. Once let the farmers get improved stock and they will increase their numbers, and I think it safe to say, that if the farmers would pursue the liberal policy and business tact that our manufactures do, in their operations that the value of the neat cattle would be doubled in the next ten years. And the hay crop of Maine then would be fed to stock that would give a fair market value in return.

This vast exportation of hay from the State is doing great harm and the next generation will have to suffer for it, if the present one does not.

I say by breeding and feeding this improved stock, we should get nearly double the amount of money out of one-half of the hay raised in the State. To say the least it would make a difference in favor of the producer and feeder of $5,000,000 annually, or in ten years adding to the increased value of our cattle, a grand total of more than $60,000,000. Farmers of Maine is not this worth looking after? Is it not worth while to get out of these old grooves and look after a higher and better agriculture, or will you plod along in the old way and fast as you can get five dollars go and deposit it in some saving's bank, rather than to invest in some improved stock that will pay you a hundred per cent? Farmers of Maine consider these things and act according to your best judgments.

Fairfield Centre. H. C. Burleigh.

For the Maine Farmer.

Jerseys for Cheese Factories.

In a recent issue of the MAINE FARMER we read with surprise an account of a meeting at Winthrop, for the purpose of establishing a cheese factory. If, as we understand, the stock of Winthrop consists largely of Jerseys, we think it would be the height of folly to put the milk of their cows into a cheese factory. We have had some experience in the matter ourselves, having put the milk of two thoroughbred Jerseys into a cheese factory last season, and we are satisfied that it does not pay. They do not give milk enough, the yield of cheese from a given number of pounds of milk is too small and there is a great loss of their butter. We speak of course of thoroughbreds.

Good marketable cheese is required to contain only 1 lb. of butter to every 2 lbs. of cheese. Therefore 100 lbs. of milk should make 10 lbs. of cheese, containing 3⅓ lbs. of butter. In the case of Jerseys, then, that yield 1 lb. of butter to 15 lbs. of milk there would be a loss of about 3⅓ lbs. of butter in every 100 lbs. of milk. We think also that there would be disappointment in regard to the amount of cheese made.

We have very little doubt, however, but what a butter factory would pay well if supplied with Jersey milk. A portion of the cream could be made into butter and the remaining milk and butter-milk into cheese. This is the most profitable way of carrying on a factory, as figures will show, and we have no doubt that the profits arising from the manufacture of Jersey milk in this way would meet the expectations of the most sanguine.

East Jefferson. James W. North, M. D.

For the Maine Farmer.

A Few Questions about a "Few Fixed Facts."

1st. If the great West is a better stock growing region than the East, why can they not make butter and cheese?

2d. If we turn all our energies and manure to raising bread for our own families, shall we be able to make butter and cheese for the great West?

3d. If N. E. farmers *can* by these extra efforts raise bread for their own families, might they not raise enough more of something else so that they could afford to buy their bread as well as the merchants?

4th. If pasture lands should never be plowed, what shall a man do with a portion of his pasture that has become covered with moss, provided he is not in a situation to keep sheep and uses all his manure to raise bread for his family, so he cannot top-dress?

5th. What is the trouble with barn cellars? And what other method is there to save manure so well, that could or would be adopted by so many farmers? O. H. L.

North Turner.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Remedy for Worms in Horses.

I have tried many things for worms in horses, such as buckwheat and ashes, etc., all of which have removed worms; but there always seemed to be enough of them left. At last I gave one table-spoonful of salt twice a day in grain and after a few weeks I saw no more symtoms of worms, although it has been two years. Most horses will keep themselves free from worms if salt is kept by them, but some horses will not eat it unless it is mixed with their feed. I think horses and cattle require nearly or quite that amount of salt to keep them healthy, and that it is better to let them have it daily in small doses, than once a week in large doses.

Wellington. Isaac Hutchins, Jr.

Calves Gnawing.

The calves of "A subscriber" do not obtain a sufficient quantity of the phosphate of lime from their food. We would therefore recommend to feed early cut and properly cured, clover hay, wheat bran and bone meal. These substances are rich in the phosphates and will no doubt cure his calves. In order to avoid such an occurrence in the future he should feed his land with this salt.

East Jefferson. James W. North, M. D.

Winter Wheat—Information Wanted.

Will you please to inform me through the columns of your paper, what kind of soil is best adapted to winter wheat, how the ground should be prepared, what time in the fall it should be sown, how much seed per acre; where the seed can be obtained, at what price per bushel, etc., and oblige E. M.

Jackson.

Board of Agriculture.

[Reported for the Maine Farmer.]

Maine Board of Agriculture and Farmers' Convention.

The annual meeting of the Maine Board of Agriculture was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week, at Wiscasset. The session throughout was one of great interest and the attendance good.

First Day.

Business Meeting of the Board.

The members assembled at 9 o'clock, A. M., and were called to order by the Secretary. Messrs. Brackett, Doe and Colburn were appointed a committee on credentials. They subsequently reported the following new members entitled to a seat at the Board and that a quorum of the members was present:

MEMBERS AT LARGE. Prof. M. C. Fernald, State College, Orono; Prof. C. A. White, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

MEMBER FROM STATE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Hannibal Belcher, Farmington.

MEMBERS FROM COUNTY SOCIETIES. Aroostook, Isaac Barker, Houlton; Penobscot, J. E. Shaw, West Hampden; Franklin, A. L. Bradbury, Phillips; Piscataquis, Lyman Lee, Foxcroft; Knox, Timothy Williams, Rockland. Permanent organization was effected by choice of the following officers:

President, Z. A. Gilbert, East Turner.
Vice President, J. W. Lang, Brooks.
Secretary, S. L. Boardman, Augusta.

Messrs. Lang, Colburn and Dunham were appointed committee on the Pay-roll.

The officers were appointed a business committee.

Porgy Chum as a Feed for Animals.

Mr. Wasson gave his results of the use of porgy chum as a feed for sheep and poultry, he having had some five years experience with it. It is the refuse of the porgy or menhaden which are caught in large numbers along the coast in Washington Co., and in fact to a greater or less extent throughout the entire coast of Maine. The oil is expressed and the residue used in the green state as a fertilizer. When used as food it is prepared by drying in the sun on elevated racks, for two days, by which process the water is expelled and it will keep for an indefinitely long period—an open barrel containing it has been in his barn for at least five years, for the purpose of ascertaining how long it will keep. One barrel of it costing $2.00 will be sufficient for three sheep during the entire winter. His sheep gave an average increase of 1¼ lbs. wool per head from the use of this chum, the sheep being fat all the time and bringing heavy lambs. Hens eat it with avidity. He believed it might be so prepared that it could be barrelled and transported into the interior of the State for purposes of feeding, thereby becoming a source of revenue to our State and a matter of direct benefit to farmers.

Mr. Thomas Boyd of Boothbay gave some interesting statements concerning this material. The county of Lincoln produces annually hundreds of thousands of tons of chum, the towns of Bristol and Boothbay being more largely engaged in the work than any others. Formerly it was sold for about $9 per ton, last year it went up to $13 per ton. He believed it worth more for a fertilizer if dried as it comes from the press, as by so doing 50 per cent. of its value is saved, and it can then be sown on the land the same as grain. Seashore farmers generally use it green as a fertilizer, but he knew from actual trials that the best results in its use as a fertilizer were obtained where it was dried as it came from the press. If thus dried it may be shipped to any part of the State. Our sea-shore farmers can obtain abundance of marine fertilizers, hence they are not so particular about using the chum, although it is often composted with seven parts of dried muck or loam to one of chum in the green state, making a very valuable fertilizer. It is sent south by the thousand tons, and composted with plaster and loam forms a fertilizer that sells from $60 to $80 per ton. July and August are the months in which it is prepared. As to its value as a food for animals he could only say that hens, ducks and turkeys prefer it to corn, in fact will leave corn for it, and they become heavy and large when fed on it. They are taken off and fed on corn three or four weeks previous to being killed.

Prof. White enquired its effects upon the quality and flavor of the meat of animals fed with it, as he thought it might be objectionable. Hogs fed in the acorn or mast regions of the west do not make so firm or sweet pork as those fed on corn. The answers to the inquiry were unsatisfactory as those present had not made experience in the eating of animals fed on the chum.

Mr. Percival had experimented with it, having used one hundred barrels as a fertilizer one season. It had proved a valuable manure but he could not commend it as a food for hens or sheep from his experiments. He had not tried the thoroughly dried chum however.

Mr. Doe thought the matter an important one, and the statements of some who had used it would certainly indicate that it was valuable as a food for sheep. The results of feeding it to this class of animals as reported by Mr. Wasson, are better than can be obtained from corn. As a matter of importance to the State in developing our resources, it was one that should be encouraged; but the matter should be carefully presented and the Board should take no responsibility in the matter.

Mr. Dunham suggested that experiments in its use as a food for animals and also as a fertilizer should be undertaken by the State College at Orono.

Prof. Fernald believed that more experiments should be made with it, and some arrangement should be perfected whereby a genuine article may be obtained for purposes of experiments. It should be prepared by responsible parties who will attend to the matter properly. If it can so be prepared that it may be used in Maine, and the money kept at home it will be an item of much importance to our State. Of course we must ultimately pay the value for it—for if a demand for the article occurs at home it will bring more in the market.

Other members made remarks and suggestions upon the subject, the means of making known its value to our farmers, and the methods of obtaining facts in regard to it. Subsequently Mr. Luther Maddocks of Boothbay, made some clear and satisfactory statements concerning the preparation of the chum. The season of taking the porgy and expressing the oil is crowded into a very few weeks, consequently the operations are carried on with much haste. When the chum comes from the press it contains about 50 per cent. of water. Of course decomposition takes place rapidly in the chum; but he thought if a demand for the article for animal food should occur, it could be so pressed as to retain but 25 per cent. of water and in that form it could be transported. Drying by solar heat was subject to considerable expense and many contingencies as to weather &c., and it would be cheaper to extract more water in pressing, and do away with drying. The subject was then tabled.

Farmers' Clubs.

The remainder of the forenoon was devoted to hearing the reports of the members upon the condition of the Farmers' Clubs in their respective counties, with a view to the proper expenditure of that portion of the stipend heretofore extended for their formation and encouragement. Reports were received from nearly every county. In Androscoggin there are eight clubs all in excellent condition; the provision as to their support has been faithfully carried out and with good results. The cheese factory movement in Franklin county was traced directly to the influence of farmers' clubs, and the amount appropriated for their encouragement has been faithfully expended. Good returns from the Jefferson, Bristol, Edgecomb and Boothbay clubs in Lincoln county were received, and the same was true of clubs in Oxford, Penobscot and Sagadahoc counties. In Penobscot there are seven or eight clubs, and one county association, all in satisfactory standing; and in Sagadahoc libraries have been established which are doing a vast amount of good. From other counties reported upon the results were not so satisfactory, and in Somerset and Piscataquis they have been indifferently sustained, and the members from those counties recommended that the sum heretofore given to clubs, be directed into other channels. This was also suggested by other members even in counties where clubs are successful, on the ground that they will continue to go on with or without the small State aid heretofore appropriated. In some counties it was not clear that Societies had fully complied with the requirements of the Board in this particular, and it might be better to leave the matter discretionary with the trustees of the several societies. After some other remarks the matter was tabled.

AFTERNOON.

The Convention assembled at 2 o'clock P. M., and was called to order by the President. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Bolster of Wiscasset. Following this was an

Address of Welcome

by Geo. B. Sawyer, Esq., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lincoln County Ag'l. and Hort. Society.

Two hundred and fifty years ago the Indian Sagamore Samoset, who had acquired a knowledge of the rudiments of English by his intercourse with the earlier English settlers to the eastward, journeying by sear from his dwelling place near Pemaquid, greeted the Pilgrims at Plymouth with the words "Much welcome Englishmen." And so, designated by the flattering judgment of his fellow citizens for the performance of the pleasing duty, (on account of his having obtained by force of adventitious circumstances a smattering of the elements of the farmers dialect) he had the honor to welcome the Board of Agriculture for the first time to Lincoln county, and for the first time to the sea-board of our State, and would say "welcome agriculturists"—thrice welcome representative men of the great fundamental interests of the State and of the country. The speaker then spoke of the Lincoln county Ag'l and Hort. Society which was organized in 1852 and has since labored by its annual fairs, and various meetings for business, lectures, discussions and other purposes, to promote that interest which the Board of Agriculture has especially in charge. It can point to improved farms and farm buildings, to cleaner and broader fields and better cultivated than formerly, to productive orchards and elegant gardens, to improved implements and stock, to eight farmers' clubs, and to a dairying association in profitable operation—as the results of these labors. And he hoped by the meeting of the Board in this county, that the labors and efforts of this Society would be very much augmented, and that they might catch the watchword of success from the lectures and discussions. He also extended a welcome in behalf of the citizens of Lincoln county and the town of Wiscasset. The county of Lincoln was organized in 1760, and embraced about seven-eighths of the whole State; being in itself a magnificent domain and larger than all the rest of New England. The county points proudly to three-fourths of the counties of the State as her own fair daughters. The speaker then gave many interesting details regarding the agriculture of the county, its productions, industries &c. The town of Wiscasset was settled in 1663 on the site of the present village. Its harbor is never disturbed by tempest or closed by ice, and it accommodates vessels of the largest size. Consequently it early directed its attention to commerce and navigation; and from its location it possesses natural advantages unsurpassed by any place on the coast of Maine. It is indeed "beautiful for situation." A hundred years ago its commerce stretched out its arms to all quarters of the globe. Now its railroad gives it direct connection with all points East and West. Mr. Sawyer alluded to many interesting events in the history of the town and closed by saying, "To such hospitality as we have, and to such attentions as we can bestow we welcome you."

A brief, appropriate and well worded response of thanks for the courtesy and hospitality extended was then made to Mr. Sawyer's address by the President of the Board, Z. A. Gilbert, Esq., the introductory exercises occupying little more than half an hour.

Following this the question was taken up: "Is it desirable to extend Cheese Factories in our State; or devote more attention to the making of choice butter, either in the private dairy or by the association system?" the consideration of which was opened by the reading of a paper by Horace Colburn member from Kennebec county.

Butter or Cheese—Which?

Mr. Colburn commenced his remarks by alluding to the importance of dairying to our farms, and to the bad results that have followed the system of grain growing and hay selling. In speaking of the dairy he compared butter with cheese and thought a cow that would make a pound of butter per day would make two pounds of cheese. Now if cheese is worth 15 cents per pound and butter 40 cents—for a nice article need never be sold cheaper—we have 10 cents per day in favor of butter and it is not as hard work to make butter as it is to make cheese; but if it is equally as much work to make butter as cheese, we have in butter-making the skimmed milk and butter milk which will pay for making—whereas the whey is worthless. The difference in cows in regard to the quality of milk is a serious obstacle to making cheese, but in butter making you can have cows of your own choice, and have them milked and tended as you like. As to help, men can make as good butter as women, and why may they not do as well in making butter as in making cheese? Another point in favor of butter making is that one-third more manure is obtained from it, in connection with pork making, than from making cheese. Seven or eight hogs may be kept to every twelve or fifteen cows, if butter is made, by feeding little else than skimmed milk. If farmers know how to make good butter, why sell it for 20, 25 or 30 cents per pound?

Various articles and statements in agricultural reports were quoted by the speaker, in support of making butter in preference to cheese. There is always a market in large cities and towns for good butter at high prices, and in Boston and Philadelphia 75 cents to $1 per pound is not uncommon. Referring to his own experience—and Mr. Colburn is a most successful butter maker—he gave an account of the operations of his dairy for the year 1862 when he kept eight cows, and hogs enough to eat the skimmed milk, and a family of twelve persons had all the milk they wanted. The entire proceeds were $1300 or $150 per cow. Butter sold for 50 cts., pork for 19 cts., pigs at $5 each and calves at $10 each. The season was good for grass, and the second crop of fields was fed in October and November. Through the winter months fed freely on early cut hay with some provinder. Estimating that the milk that will make two pounds of cheese will make a pound of butter, and as cheese was at that time worth 20 to 22 cents per pound, it left from 8 to 10 cents in favor of butter. Now put the price of butter at 35 cents and cheese at 15 cents, the price for which they have sold the past season and we have five cents in favor of butter. The speaker stated his rules for making good butter to be as follows: First procure good milkers; 2d feed liberally, plenty of early cut hay in winter with roots and provender; 3d, keep the cows in a clean stable, and be attentive and careful in milking; 4th, bed with sawdust, and wash the udder with warm water before milking; 5th, do not change milkers; 6th, after the cream rises the sooner it is churned the better, and the cream pot should never be closely covered; 7th, have the milk room scrupulously neat and clean; 8th, after churning work out all the butter-milk—but do not work too long as by so doing the grain of the butter is spoiled; 9th, in salting the butter use from three-fourths of an ounce to a little over an ounce to the pound. Mr. Colburn quoted the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture in reference to the making of butter as a department of farm industry that gave great promise of good returns, and that it was possible for the butter makers of the country, by making a uniformly superior article, to increase the average price 10 cents per pound, which would put into the purses of the butter makers of the country seventy millions of dollars. This is too large a sum to pay for ignorance, carelessness and lack of cleanliness. In closing he referred to the advantages for butter making and dairying in Aroostook county—and said if a young man he would go to that county, clear up a new farm and go into dairying. By this course a man would make his "pile" quicker than he would by going to California or out West. We must put aside the idea of getting rich in a day or a month—the slow sure process is best. And for accomplishing this no plan is better than dairying, as by it the farm and the farmer are enriched at the same time.

After the paper of Mr. Colburn the President, in accordance with the announcement of the programme, spoke upon the other side of the question;—not for the purpose of argument, but to accomplish the same object as that which the opening speaker had in view, viz:—the practical consideration of the question for the purpose of drawing out facts.

Remarks of Z. A. Gilbert, Esq.

In commencing Mr. Gilbert made the proposition that farm dairying has not and cannot flourish. The reasons for this were well stated by the speaker, and are such as those familiar with the subject are conversant with. The changes that the times have brought about in our agriculture are felt here; from the poor condition of our old farms but little stock is kept, and the scarcity of help for the making of butter and cheese in families renders it quite impossible for private dairying to be conducted with success. Associated dairying removes all these objections; therefore it will be of great advantage to our State at large, and especially to those localities where the conditions to its success are found in largest number. But the associated system does not apply so well to butter making as to the making of cheese; in fact in this State associated butter making is not practical. Again cheese dairying is more profitable than butter dairying, and this is a strong point in favor of its adoption. In considering this subject it is safe to deal with *averages* only—the extremes will not do; and the average of milk production for the making of butter is that it requires 24 pounds of milk to make one of butter. There have it is true, been instances where more was required, and in a few cases a less quantity has made it. Now the returns from all cheese factories in the country show that on an average one pound of cheese is made from 9.76 lbs. of milk—our own State it is true, does a little better than this, a matter which renders Maine well adapted for cheese manufacture. In his own dairy Mr. Gilbert said it had taken from 8¼ to 9 lbs. of milk to make one of cheese. From these averages it is clear that 2½ lbs. of cheese will be produced from the milk required for one of butter—but to be generous and leave a wide margin for contingencies it may be set down with safety at 2¼ lbs. Now as to the prices of the two products. It is pretty hard averaging the price of butter, it is so variable in quality—but it may be called 30 cents, though this is too high. Good cheese the country over is sold at 14 cents. Of that manufactured in this State none has sold less than 15 cents, while some has sold at 16 cents at the factory, and at the stores it retails at 20 cents. Thus the milk required for a pound of butter selling for 30 cents, made into cheese will actually sell for 40 cents on an average—the lowest estimates giving 37½ cents. This difference may be offset with the value of skimmed milk over whey. Much is said about the value of skimmed milk, and we would think to hear some people extol its value, it paid to run a dairy for the skimmed milk alone. This, said the speaker, reminded him of the old lady who wanted to burn all the wood she could, so as to get the ashes. As to its value for pigs, he had made a careful estimate, and was satisfied the skimmed milk of a dozen cows did not possess value enough to pay for the shoe leather worn out in carrying the milk to the pigs. "Gilt edged" butter it is true bears a better price; but few can make it, as its manufacture depends upon many nice conditions, not only to make it, but to sell it for the tall price obtained—and these conditions are under the control of but very few. The first requisite is that the producer must be in easy reach of the consumer; therefore the manufacture of this class of butter is not practicable for the masses. In conclusion Mr. Gilbert said that cheese factories should be multiplied in our State, as scores more are needed to supply our own wants. By their establishment too, the butter products will be increased, and prosperity to our dairy interests follow.

A brief discussion followed the remarks of Mr. Gilbert, after which the following committees, preliminary to the organization of a State Dairymen's Association were announced:

On nomination of officers, H. Colburn of Windsor; B. M. Hight of Skowhegan; L. M. Kennedy, East Jefferson.

On Constitution—T. P. Batchelder, Kenduskeag; J. W. North, Jr., East Jefferson; J. W. Lang, Brooks. The Convention then adjourned.

EVENING.

The paper of the evening was presented by Hon. Samuel Wasson, and was entitled, "Conditions Requisite for the Elevation of Farming." In the absence of the writer it was read by D. M. Dunham. We present an abstract.

The Elevation of Farming.

The present rank of Maine among the farming States is well down towards the end of the list. Is this her proper place, or have combined causes removed her out of orbit? Is this low rank fixed and unchangeable? In the growth of beef Maine cannot compete with the West, forage ground and not skill is the fulcrum in this matter; in pork it is cheap corn which turns the scale to our disadvantage; with wool it is the convict grown wool of Van Dieman's Land at from 15 to 16 cts. per pound, against eastern grown at 40 cts. per pound; and with wheat and corn, which in good years even, our farmers do not grow but one eleventh of the broad consumption of the State—it is the West that supplies us. To grow any of these products for an outside market is to babble against a "lost cause." The westward march of empire has made them unnatural or out-of-the-way products for us, and the eastern farmer who wastes his muscle in the culture of such products, with an expectation of making them pay in a competative market is certainly wanting in well balanced sagacity. So long as our farming only brings crops growing "small by degrees and beautifully less," so long will our out going trains be freighted with the best of our "kith and kin" seeking for a better land nearer the western sun.

There is a link between cause and effect which cannot be broken—and one of these has been indicated; our farmers have not deciphered the new departure which the opening of the central and Pacific States have thrust upon them. The distance between the market and the farm is another condition requisite for the elevation of farming—for here comes the first tribute to Cæsar, the tax for transportation. Let there be a demand for twenty tons of hay, at $20 per ton, A and B deliver each fifteen tons. A's hay stands him at $19 and B's at $15. Each has five tons to be sold at a competitive price, A can fall but one dollar and hold his own, while B can "go four better." Each sells at $15, B makes nothing and loses nothing, while A goes home $20 out of pocket; yet among the fathomless things about us is why so many farmers keep good an *appetite* for just such luck.

Another condition which lifts or lowers the level of farming is the relation of a farmer to a citizen. "Nothing but a farmer" is suggestive of a broad demonstration between the two. It is a recognition of caste in society or that the standard of citizenship is not character but occupation. Because one man digs potatoes and another eats them, is the digger of coarser or the eater of finer material? The idea that the pursuits of agriculture are not as high and honorable as other callings, has brought the business of farming into disrepute and cast over it a darkened shade. Social position is not rightly determined by the "shine" of the boots, unless the wearer makes them a receptacle for his brains—nor by the shoddy mix of his garb unless it covers a shoddy and shabby morality.

The paper next treated of the farmer as a politician. The more a farmer can sell the more he will produce, and what he may produce and what he may sell, whether farm products shall bear a just relation in price to the products of other labors, whether those who live by farming shall stand upon an equal footing with those who live by traffic, or whether monopolists shall harvest the fruits of their industry—these the speaker regarded as nothing more nor less than political questions, and as such he considered them. The facts are that there are but two farmers in the Congress of the nation, and more than three-fourths of the State and national offices are appropriated to non-producers and middle men. A home market is needed to make farming in Maine a reasonable success. No sister State of equal area can show such an inexhaustible never-failing water power; and why this has not been utilized is because years ago when capital took an eastern drift, our political economists saw in corporations only a "consolidated monster to devour the liberties of the people." It is an encouraging sign that our present State policy in this respect is one of liberality. Another condition requisite for the elevation of farming is that it shall no longer be wholly individualized—prostrating it at the feet of every occupation which is organized. This question of association is now awakening a deep interest among farmers, and the principle it involves constitutes all the difference between the rill and the river. Isolated, there are many things the farmer cannot do, but combine his power with that of others and there is no work however grand which he may not accomplish. To elevate our farming to a higher level, to ensure the substantial kindness of life, to provide for and guard the social faculties should be the aim and end of all our efforts. The end of tillage is not dust and drudgery, dimes and dollars, not merely to improve the fields and flocks, but the men and women. The essential requisites of farming are not to plan and plant—but to rear the cultivator of the soil for grander utilities, where his occupation cannot crush or cramp his manhood, but where he can cultivate his intellect, till

"The precious poetry of life shall yield
Its leaden cares."

Hon. Hannibal Belcher, representative from the Pomological Society was then introduced. He contrasted the existing circumstances between our own State and the West, and gave encouragement to our farmers in the fact that the current return from the West to the East has already set in. Crops are worth more here, and our young men should stay here. We should keep our capital here, build railroads and invest in farming and loans to farmers. Capital invested in farming will return as good a per cent. as that put into manufactures. He thought farmers should give more attention to politics and legislation; recent legislation has been mainly in the interests of railroads, banks and brokers—it should be directed more to the farmer's own good; and farmers should hereafter control our legislation, that agriculture may be benefitted and the resources of the State developed.

Hon. Harris Lewis of New York said farmers have lived too much by themselves, while almost every other class of men have their vigorous and effective organizations. Farmers should associate themselves more and more for the promotion of their own interests.

How Birds Learn to Sing and Build.

What is instinct? It is the "faculty of performing complex acts absolutely without instruction, or previously acquired knowledge." Instinct, then, would enable animals to perform spontaneously acts which, in the case of man, pre-suppose ratiocination, a logical train of thought; but when we test the observed facts which are usually put forward to prove power of instinct, it is found that they are seldom conclusive. It was on such grounds that the song of birds was taken to be innate; albeit a very ready experiment would have shown that it comes from the education they receive. During the last century, Barrington brought up some linnets, taken from the nest in company with larks of sundry varieties, and found that every one of the linnets adopted completely the song of the master set over them, so that now these linnets—larks by naturalization—form a company apart, when placed among birds of their own species. Even the nightingale, whose native sound is so sweet, exhibits, under domestication, a considerable readiness to imitate other singing birds. The song of the bird is, therefore, determined by its education, and the same must be true to nest building. A bird brought up in a cage does not construct the nest peculiar to its species. In vain will you supply all the necessary materials; the birds will employ them without skill, and will oftentimes even renounce all purpose of building anything like a nest. Does not this well known fact prove that, instead of being guided by instinct, the bird learns how to construct his nest, just as a man learns how to build a house?

Ashes and Plaster.

The *Rural Home* gives this bit of history: During the year 1857, a man named Arthur Dungan, went to the town of Palermo, N. Y., and bought sixty acres of dry, sandy land, with here and there a little pertaining to gravel. He paid $1,800 for it. He knew nothing about farming, being a machinist by trade, and never held a plow. After paying for his land, he had $200 left. He found his land was worn out. He began by buying ashes and plaster; would draw potatoes fourteen miles to Oswego, and load his team back with manure from the livery stables. His crops increased. His ashes were spread correspondingly thick. He raised principally potatoes and wheat. Now, 2,000 bushels of ashes per year are about what he buys. His potatoes, for several years past, average 250 bushels per acre; his winter wheat, thirty bushels and over; and he has saved from his farm alone, till he now holds $12,000 in bank stock, and would not sell his farm for $100 per acre. He sold in 1869, in potatoes and wheat, over $2,300 worth. He is known as the best farmer in this county. Yet when he began buying ashes, old farmers shook their heads, and said: "He will know better when he has farmed it as long as we have."

Form and Udder of the Ayrshire Cow.

In a few things the Scotch dairy farmers are of one mind, and have been for years: they seek to have animals whose whole energies are devoted to milk manufacture. Experience has informed them that a certain form, characterized by great depth of the hinder parts of the animal, with good width of hips, and without further largeness forward than the internal organs demand for the exercise of their appropriate functions, is indispensable to economic milk production. They have realized, in a large measure, this desire. But they have also striven to have upon their animals a particular form of milk vessel—as the Scotch call it—one that shall be of largest capacity, attached in a manner to least annoy the cow in walking or lying down, and is least exposed to the effects of changes of temperature. It is an udder possessed by no other breed with which we are familiar, and is purely Ayrshire.

Oxford Sheep for Crossing.

Oxford Downs have for some years been rising in public repute, and are much used throughout the mid-land and south-western counties of England. They are of hardy constitution, can be run somewhat thicker than the pure Cotswolds or Leicesters; their dark faces and legs, and good proportion of lean meat recommend them, especially when the mutton trade happens to be flat. In size they do not much differ from Cotswolds, Lincolns, or the best border Leicesters. They have fleeces as heavy as any long-wooled sort. In ordinary Oxford flocks, hundreds of fleeces, including sheep of various descriptions, average nine to ten pounds. Oxford-Down rams for crossing may be had at the Oxford, Danbury, Reading, and other fairs, for from twelve to fifteen guineas, but the smarter lots reach four or five times that figure.—*Canada Farmer.*

Chicago Live Stock Market.

During the year 1873 there were received at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, 766,428 head of cattle, valued at $35,264,269; 4,337,750 Hogs, valued at $53,153,000; 191,734 Sheep, valued at $875,000; 20,289 Horses, valued at $2,028,902. The total value was $91,321,162. Compared with 1872 there is a considerable increase of number in cattle; an increase of more than 1,000,000 in hogs, and a decrease of nearly 19,000 in number of sheep. The largest receipts in any one day were 7,816 cattle and 45,673 hogs; in any week 22,287 cattle and 205,615 hogs. In December 665,771 hogs were received.

Where the Wheat Goes.

The careful estimates made of the wants of England for the years '73 and '74 by the *Mark Lane Express*, are *Twelve Million Quarters of wheat*, equal to 96,000,000 bushels, an amount vastly beyond all that the United States can supply.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, February 21, 1874.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has been previously sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices

Mr. C. S. Ayer will canvas Lincoln county during the ensuing month.

Mr. S. N. Taber, our agent, will call upon Subscribers in Kennebec during the month of February.

Mr. A. E. Faught, will call upon our subscribers in Franklin County, during the month of February.

The Woman Crusade.

We have already alluded to the crusade against the liquor traffic which was inaugurated by the women in a small town in Ohio. This movement with varying success, has rapidly spread over a large portion of the State and is being tried in other States and at points far distant from the place where it begun.

The plan is for a band of praying women and men and sometimes women alone, to visit drinking saloons and hold prayer meetings and in this way to bring a religious influence to bear upon those engaged in the business. The wonderful success which has attended these efforts in some instances, has given a remarkable impetus to the movement, and sanguine ones are predicting that it will result in a temperance millenium.

Last week it was determined by some twenty clergymen belonging to the Massachusetts State Temperance Alliance, to inaugurate the movement in that State, and after considering the advantages of several places as points of attack, it was finally decided to begin at Worcester. The result will be looked for with much interest and upon its success will depend the future action of those who have undertaken this novel method of closing up the dram shops.

Within the past forty years we have seen several phases of the temperance cause. The first method was purely a moral one, and public lectures and the pledge were the principal means relied upon for effecting its objects. Its aims were to reform the drunkard by appealing to his better nature and awakening in his mind a consciousness of his evil practices. This great movement spread over a large extent of country and was the means of accomplishing a vast amount of good. Social drinking which had ever been regarded as respectable and was indulged in by both churchman and layman, became disreputable, and the traffic in liquors which up to that time had always been sustained by public sentiment, was no longer followed by those who desired to keep their places in good society. This movement developed a peculiar class of orators who, in many respects resembled revival preachers and wherever they went, they met with remarkable success.

Then followed the legal phase of the subject or the coercion of those dealers who could not be reached by moral forces. This phase of the subject was inaugurated in this State which furnished a technical name for this peculiar form of legislation, and some form of the "Maine Law" has been enacted in most of the New England, Middle and in some of the Western States. If moral suasion and legal coercion could have joined hands and worked together, they would have been nearly or quite irresistible, but such was not the case. The moral suasion effort began to decline as soon as coercive measures were used, and for a few years temperance men have depended mostly upon the enforcement of the law against sellers for the suppression of intemperance. Wherever the laws have been sustained by public sentiment, they have accomplished great results, but where this has not been the case, they have been a dead letter, and all attempts at effective enforcement have proved abortive. In this respect they are not singular, for it is so with all enactments which are designed to promote the cause of morality and virtue.

The woman's crusade is unparalleled in respect to the means employed and must be denominated the religious phase of the question. In most places where it has prevailed it has started almost spontaneously, and it enlists the sympathies and co-operation of so large a portion of each community, that it at once becomes irresistible.

There has been no popular movement for many years which has excited so much general interest as this, and the universal question is, what will it amount to and how much of permanent good will it accomplish? Outside of the scenes of its active operations, there is much incredulity on the subject, and a prevailing opinion that its effectiveness can only be temporary in any place, and that in the larger cities, it can accomplish little if anything.

But even if its direct results are limited, as all human efforts necessarily are, like the movements which have preceded it, it is an educator of the public, and the public sentiment, zeal and enthusiasm which it produces, will tend, more and more, to unite the community against an evil which has so long enthralled the civilized world.

It is natural that woman should feel a deep interest in any movement for the suppression of the liquor traffic, for the dead weight of the dreadful business falls heavily upon her. To thousands of them the money that goes to fill the coffers of the liquor dealer, is the price of bread and perhaps of blood. It is no wonder that those who have experienced its terrible effects, should enlist in the holy crusade against the infamous traffic and that others who have not suffered directly, should engage in it from sympathy with its humane objects. This new movement, so far as it is directed by discretion, will have the good wishes and moral support of all lovers of morality and virtue, wherever they may be. Wherever zeal overcomes discretion, and acts of violence are committed, all efforts at reform will be more than neutralized. If reports are to be believed, some acts have already been committed which ill comport with the gentle spirit of the gospel. Whips in the hands of women, and slung shots carried by their male associates, are not calculated to soften the hearts and change the minds of those upon whom they are used. Ridicule must certainly fall upon their religious efforts, if they undertake to supplement them by the use of carnal weapons.

Our faith is not strong in the moral power of this movement to restrain keepers of groceries from selling, any longer than the pressure is continued upon them, but so far as it creates and strengthens public sentiment against the use of alcoholic stimulants, its effects will be salutary and permanent.

☞ The Legislature has passed a series of resolutions introduced by Hon. J. W. North of this city, remonstrating against the abandonment and sale of the Kennebec Arsenal, for the consummation of which a bill is now pending before Congress. The resolutions set forth at length the importance of having a depot for ordnance stores in a frontier State like Maine, and instruct our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their influence against the passage of the bill.

Personal. Horace M. Jordan, formerly of the *Standard* and more recently editor of the Portland *Star*, has accepted a position on the staff of the Brooklyn *Eagle*.

☞ The Judiciary Committee of the Legislature have reported a bill for the abolition of the death penalty. The vote stood in the committee, 6 to 4.

Recent Discoveries. The American Geographical Society recently held its annual meeting in New York, and the session was one of marked interest. This Society, which is one of the most respectable of its class, is also earnestly engaged in its chosen field of labor, and is yearly making valuable contributions to geographical science.

At the recent meeting the President, Judge Daly, gave an interesting resume of the explorations in all parts of the world since the last annual meeting, and briefly summed up the results. The first referred to explorations and discoveries in our own country. In the regions of the upper Columbia river, pre-historic remains of camels, rhinoceros and other tropical animals were discovered by Prof. Morse and his party. They also found the skeleton of the horse, thus proving conclusively that the horse was not first introduced here from Europe. The Mormons are well pleased with this discovery, claiming that it is confirmatory of the assertions of their Scriptures which declare that horses were here and in use long before the advent of the Spaniards. The same expedition also discovered and described the Crater Lake of Oregon, a body of water surrounded by walls instead of banks, and in this respect differing from any lake which has heretofore been discovered. Other American discoveries of minor importance were spoken of in detail.

The ruins which have long been known to exist in Cambodia, in Asia, have been visited during the past year by a French expedition under Lieut. Garnier, and much valuable information was obtained. The ruins of the city of Angor is particularly described. They are distinguished for their magnificence, the elaborateness of their sculpture and the beauty of their adornments. They are also very extensive, the four sides of one of the temples measuring two and a quarter miles. While wandering through the remains of labyrinthian roads, across deserts and jungles, Lieut. Garnier discovered at intervals the remains of ancient greatness, the architecture and sculpture of which showed an advanced knowledge of the arts, and one of them is described as a masterpiece of workmanship.

We have already described the supposed discovery of King Priam's treasure box in the ruins of ancient Troy, by Prof. Schiliemann the celebrated German antiquarian and explorer. It is claimed that during the year a key has been discovered to the language of the ancient Etrascuns. Two dice found in a tomb were marked with words and these words are identical with the first six digits in the Altaic branch of the Turanian family of languages. Acting upon this information, Rev. J. Taylor has investigated three thousand Etruscan inscriptions and the results of his researches will soon be made known to the world.

The story of the Polaris expedition with all its details, is fresh in the minds of our readers, though the exact amount of geographical knowledge obtained by it has not been made public, but will be in due time.

In Palestine the subterranean explorations at Jerusalem are still going on and new and important discoveries have been made. In the exploration of other portions of Palestine, the American and English Commission have divided their field of labor, the former taking the east and the latter the west side of the river Jordan. The Americans have been able to identify the site of the ancient city of Gazer, and the descendants of the heathenish Canaanites in the Lebanon range of mountains. Their religion is a curious mixture, embracing the worship of Bael, Astarte, the heavenly bodies, with traces of Christianity, Mohammedanism and the Mosaic dispensation.

The English expedition have confined their investigations, for the most part, to the peninsula of Sinai and have established, to their own satisfaction, the following two points: That this was the scene of the events recorded in the Exodus of the Jews and described by Moses, and a careful examination has served to corroborate, in a remarkable degree, the accuracy of the biblical account, and that Jebel Musa is the ancient Sinai, from whence the law was delivered. The country is described as being exceedingly wild and rugged and the present barrenness and desolation is believed to be due to neglect. Livingstone is reported to have passed away and the value of his more recent researches in the interior of Africa, are not yet known.

Dr. Rahles with a German expedition under the patronage of the Viceroy of Egypt, has penetrated into Africa from the west coast in the region of the Libian desert, and will thoroughly explore that section of country. German explorers in the Loango region report that they have seen enough to satisfy them that they will find an indigenous race of dwarfs in these lands similar to those described by De Chaillu. Several individual specimens have already been seen upon the coast. Large deposits of coal have been found in New Guinea, which is of great importance to vessels cruising in the South Pacific.

City News and Gossip. The lecture of Gen. Banks in the Temple Course, will be given Saturday evening.—Snow-shoes were used by persons attending Probate Court last week, and now wagons are in order.—Ira D. Sturgis is prospecting for timber lands in Florida.—The irrepressible muskrat perforated the dam of the Augusta Water Company, so that a portion of it was carried away by the late freshet. There is no lack of water at present, and it is hoped that further damage may be stayed.—The rain of Friday wonderfully reduced the volume of snow. The man who prophesied an open winter can take his place at the head.—A valuable (?) hound belonging to C. O. Cony was run over and killed by the cars last week, while he was pursuing a fox.—Stevens, one of the escaped jail birds, was re-captured at the house of his uncle in Pittston. — Senators Burgess and Holbrook of Cumberland, and Rounds of Androscoggin, are unable to attend to their official duties on account of sickness.—The police made a seizure of fifty gallons of liquor at a private house Saturday night—We now have nearly two hours more of daylight than we had in December.—Ex-Governor Perham and daughters are spending a few days in the city.—The proposition to tax railroads was before the Legislative Committee, Tuesday, which brought a number of railroad officials to the city.—The committee will not report a bill to tax ice.—Evergreen trimmings around a chandelier in the parlor of the Augusta House, took fire Tuesday night, and created quite a sensation. A bucket of water made it all right.—Rev. J. W. Hinds will preach at the Winthrop street Universalist church Sunday morning, but the Sunday evening service will be omitted.—Hon. J. L. Stevens received his friends and neighbors at his house Wednesday evening. A large number assembled including the Governor and Council and many members of the Legislature. The occasion was a very enjoyable one.—Deacon John Means, another of our old citizens passed away Tuesday afternoon. He came to this city from Saco, in 1811 and was engaged in trade for many years.—J. H. Manley, Esq., of this city, has been appointed Supervisor of Internal Revenue for New England, vice Simmons, who has been appointed collector of the Port of Boston. He was recommended for the position by the U. S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and the entire Congressional delegation from this State.

☞ N. B. Nutt, Esq., editor of the Eastport *Sentinel*, has been appointed collector of the Passamaquoddy Collection District, in place of Hon. C. R. Whidden whose term had expired. Mr. Nutt had served as Deputy Collector for several years, and therefore the appointment is in accordance with the spirit of the Civil Service rules.

La Creme De La Creme. We are in receipt of Number 3 of this valuable publication. We always hail with pleasure the advent of this "Creme" of our musical journals and can cordially recommend it to our music loving friends.

Brief Editorials.

Appalling accounts begin to reach us of the famine in India, which is rapidly extending. The dependency of Nepaul which comprises most of the southern slope of the Himalayan chain, is now almost entirely destitute of food. It contains over fifty thousand square miles of territory and is very populous.

Governor Dingley exercised the veto power last week which is the first time it has been used for fourteen years. His objections to the bill were purely technical, and his position was sustained by a unanimous vote of the Legislature. The last veto previous to the present one, was the Somerset Railroad charter in 1859, by Gov. L. M. Morrill.

It is said that Mr. Howells will withdraw from the management of the Atlantic Monthly with the July number, to be succeeded by Mr. H. E. Scudder who is a member of the firm of H. O. Houghton & Co., the present publishers of the Atlantic. Mr. Scudder is said to be a gentleman of fine culture and a brilliant writer.

Insurrection and rebellion have become chronic in British Columbia, and the people of that territory seem desirous of emulating Mexico both politically and socially. An unpopular but necessary measure was recently pending when the sovereign people assailed the capitol, deposed the cabinet and formed a new one and gave out that their demands must be complied with. Some of them go so far as to threaten a closer alliance with the United States, a consummation which can only be a question of time.

The recent outbreak among the Indians will probably hasten the transfer of the Indian bureau to the Department of War, where in our judgment it properly belongs. These wards of the Government will certainly be treated as humanely by the officers of the army as they are now treated, and the affairs of the bureau can be much more economically managed. In respect to money matters, the word "officer" in connection with the regular army, has always been a synonym for honesty. It will be a sorry day for contractors and whiskey dealers when this change is made.

The Old South Church of historic fame and one of the ancient landmarks of Boston, will soon be counted among the by-gones. The society has asked the Massachusetts Legislature for permission to sell the venerable structure, and doubtless the prayer will be granted. Its location which was once in the centre of population, is now in the centre of business, and if Sunday services were now held the number in attendance would be very small. The property is worth half a million of dollars, which of itself is a great inducement to the few proprietors to dispose of it.

Sometime ago a writer in Harper's Weekly suggested the propriety of using Alaska as a penal colony. Public attention is called anew to the subject by the action of the California Legislature in recommending its use for this purpose, and Congress will now be asked to take the subject into consideration. There is certainly great need of something to supply the deficiency of our present expensive prison system and the economical arguments used in favor of the Alaska plan should receive careful attention. Its reformatory feature is not the least of its recommendations.

The widows of the late Siamese brothers certainly have an eye to the main chance which is not made second to their respect for their deceased husbands. The autopsy was not permitted until pledges had been given not to disfigure the faces of the dead so far as to spoil them for exhibition, and photographs were permitted to be taken, but the negatives were carefully copyrighted for the benefit of the disconsolate widows. It has rarely been the case that deceased husbands have been turned to so good an account.

Insensible to or regardless of public sentiment, the Boston School Board have refused to re-consider their action in excluding women, duly elected, from participating in their deliberations. At a meeting held Tuesday evening there was a full attendance and a large number of interested spectators, including the unseated members. After a long debate in which many of the members expressed their views fully and freely, the vote on the question of re-consideration stood sixty-seven to thirty-five. This action is final so far as the board is concerned, and now the courts must settle the question.

Intelligence comes from Santa Fe of the prevalence of lawlessness and ruffianism in Lincoln Co. New Mexico, to such an extent that the civil authorities are utterly powerless to put a stop to it or to bring offenders to justice. Over twenty murders have recently been committted, and among them were a man and his wife in bed. As the tide of emigration, advances it crowds upon the Indian reserves and upon the exposed white settlers, and in sparsely settled districts a dozen bold brigands can defy the civil authorities. A detachment of cavalry is the only force that can squelch these lawless marauders.

Uncle Sam has an immense amount of clothing on hand which has been kept over since the late war. The wicked moth which feeds on woolens was a great pest and induced some inventive genius to devise a plan which he offered to sell to the Government, to prevent its ravages. It was accepted and to carry it into effect cost $350,000 the first year. The stock of clothing has been but slightly reduced, but under the retrenchment pressure the expense has been reduced to $50,000 for the current year, a saving of $300,000. The question is now asked, if there was not a moth ring?

☞ We understand that some members of the Legislature lean to the cottage system of treating the insane because it calls for a much smaller appropriation than the pavilion plan. If the State recognizes its obligations to care for the demented and idiotic as well as for the excited and intractable, the cottage plan is good enough, but it should be constantly borne in mind that the former classes require no medical treatment and can be cared for as well at home as in cottages near the hospital. A very wise measure has already passed the Legislature providing for the discharge of harmless patients. If this law is obeyed, as it doubtless will be, there will be no necessity for cottages and the money so expended will be only thrown away. The members of the Legislature do not seem disposed to seek counsel of those who have had experience in these matters, but each one thinks he knows "how it is himself."

☞ The ladies of the Winthrop Street Universalist Society, are making elaborate preparations for their annual levee and fair, to come off at Granite Hall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Feb. 25th and 26th. A drama entitled "The Mission of the Fairies," is in rehearsal for the occasion, in which the children and young people of the parish will appear in the characters of fairies, elves, brownies, &c., making, it is believed, one of the most attractive and entertaining performances ever presented in this city. It is hoped the public will give the entertainment a liberal patronage.

State Prison Salaries. Governor Dingley sent a communication to the Senate Wednesday accompanied by a statement of the amounts paid for salaries to the warden and other officers and employes of the State Prison for about twenty years past. It appears that the salary of the warden in 1854 was $700; in 1864, $1200; in 1865, $1800; from 1866 to 1871 it was $2500, and for the past two years $4000. The total amount paid for salaries for the other officers of the prison was in 1854 $5236.64; in 1864, $6918; in 1870, $13,287, 27, and in 1873 a little more than $14,000.

☞ At the Fraternity Entertainment in Portland, among the curiosities of the "Art Gallery" were "life-like portraits" of Judge Goddard and Hon. G. F. Talbot, represented by "a pair of suspenders." It will be remembered that these gentlemen have taken a prominent part in the capital punishment discussion.

The Mystery of the Headless Skeleton. The trial of James M. Lowell for the murder of his wife, which commenced at Auburn on Tuesday of last week and has been in progress since that time, has excited great interest throughout the State. The Court House has daily been thronged with spectators of both sexes, and hundreds who desired have been unable to gain admittance. Judge Walton presides and performs his arduous and delicate duties with distinguished ability. The prosecution is conducted by County Attorney Wing and State Attorney Plaisted, while E. F. Pillsbury and M. T. Ludden have defended Lowell.

Our readers will remember that sometime during the latter part of last summer, a skeleton covered with the remains of clothing and leaves was found near the travelled road some three or four miles from Lewiston. At first it appeared to be a great mystery, but very soon it was remembered by many that a Mrs. Lowell mysteriously disappeared from Lewiston in the month of June, 1870, and had never since been heard from, and the opinion began to be entertained that the skeleton might be the remains of the missing woman. The skeleton was not entire, the bones of the head and several joints of the spinal column being missing. The husband of the missing woman, James M. Lowell, soon after the disappearance of his wife, was married to another and removed to Lawrence, Mass. Suspicion at once pointed him out as the perpetrator of a crime, and he was arrested and lodged in Auburn jail.

Fifty witnesses were summoned and examined by the Government. In consequence of the lapse of time since the circumstances attending the disappearance of Mrs. Lowell occurred, there was a noticeable lack of directness and positiveness on the part of most of the witnesses, but the bulk of the testimony pointed very strongly to Lowell as the perpetrator of the deed.

It was shown in the testimony that Lowell and his wife did not live happily together; that he had been guilty of frequent acts of violence toward her, had pointed a pistol at her head, whipped her with a horse-whip and pricked her with a knife and had frequently indulged in threats. It was shown that he rode out with her on the night of her disappearance and soon after gave out word that his wife had run away with a circus. He bartered away her clothing and other personal property, and tried to induce several girls to marry him very soon after his wife's disappearance. A month or so after his wife's disappearance, he pretended to have heard from her and stated to his wife's mother and to others that he knew where she was. About this time several letters were written to different parties purporting to come from Mrs. Lowell, giving directions to have her clothing given up to Lowell and recommending him to the special consideration of two young women who were named in the letters. These letters were produced in court, and by comparison with Lowell's hand writing, were clearly shown to have been written by him.

The skeleton was clearly identified as the remains of the missing Mrs. Lowell. Her dress which was of black silk was identified by the dressmaker, by the style in which it was made, the lace with which it was trimmed, the buttons and the peculiar manner in which the button holes were worked. This testimony was corroborated by several witnesses.

Expert testimony was produced to show the probable height of the person to whom the skeleton belonged, the length of the foot and the probable time that it had been exposed to the action of the elements. Spots of blood found upon a pair of pants which Lowell sold to his cousin, were proved by expert testimony to be human blood.

It was shown in the trial that Mrs. Lowell had been married previous to her connection with Lowell to a man named Nichols, who deserted her some ten years ago, and never returned. His wife had never been divorced, therefore her marriage with Lowell was illegal.

The weak point in the prosecution was a failure to prove that a murder had been committed, and from the nature of the case, this was next to impossible. The skeleton was found and identified as the remains of Mrs. Lowell, but the lapse of time had destroyed all evidence of the manner of her death.

The evidence for the prosecution was all in Saturday night and the defence was commenced Monday morning. Several witnesses including the prisoner himself were examined. Lowell testified as to his whereabouts at the time of the disappearance of his wife and denied the murder.

One witness in the defence testified to seeing Mrs. Lowell on the night of her disappearance at the DeWitt House; said she was in company with a circus man. Also testified to having seen her sometime after the disappearance from Auburn with a circus at Hyde Park, Mass.

Several physicians testified that the head could not have been violently removed without leaving traces in the bones of the neck. Dr. Garcelon testified to treating Lowell for an injury, about the time Central Hall was burned, which was the night when Mrs. Lowell disappeared, but thinks the skin was not broken as there was no blood.

Rebutting testimony was introduced by the prosecution showing that Lowell had been convicted of stealing hay and paid $50,00 to settle it. This was done for the purpose of impeaching his character for veracity. The testimony was all in Tuesday afternoon and Mr. Pillsbury commenced his argument for the defence. He occupied the remainder of the session and most of the session Wednesday. The closing argument was made by H. M. Plaisted Attorney for the State. The case will not be given to the Jury before Friday.

Lowell is 33 years of age. He has a sort of mean, hang dog look about him, but there is nothing in his appearance to indicate the murderer. He exhibited but little emotion during the trial and a sort of smirk approaching a smile, covered his face a great portion of the time. When the skeleton and the remains of the dress were being exhibited to the jury, the close observer would notice a slight clutching of the fingers, indicating that he was not entirely at his ease. He was the observed of all observers and bore the trying ordeal with more than ordinary firmness. It was plain to any one present that the vast crowd which thronged the court house, had little if any sympathy with the accused.

☞ An atrocious triple murder was committed in Halifax, Mass., on Sunday last, the victims being two wealthy brothers by the name of Sturtevant and their housekeeper, a maiden lady by the name of Buckley. A neighbor was passing by the house Monday morning when some forty rods from the house, in a field, he discovered the body of Miss Buckley upon the ground, with her head beaten to a pumice. He at once gave the alarm, and proceeded to the house where she lived, when he was shocked with the ghastly spectacle of the dead body of Thomas Sturtevant near the door as he entered. Upon still further search it was found that Simeon, the other brother, was also lying lifeless upon his bed, with his head also presenting the evidence of having been beaten with a club. The nearest neighbors were but twenty rods distant, but no clue at present has been reached as to who were the authors of this shocking murder. It is not known that any considerable amount of money was in the possession of these unfortunate victims, still it is conjectured that the object was robbery.

W. E. Sturtevant a distant relative of the murdered man, and whose father resides in Lewiston now, has been arrested for the murder. His bloody overcoat was found in the house and fractional currency which he passed had blood stains upon it. A hundred dollar greenback was found in his boots. He is about 24 years of age.

☞ A destructive fire occurred at Sing Sing, New York Tuesday, in which property valued at $100,000 was burned, including the best part of the village.

Maine Legislature.

The business committee of the Legislature has concluded that all committees can report finally on or before the 24th inst. If this is done the Legislature may possibly close up its business so as to adjourn finally on the 28th, but we think it quite probable that it will hold over a few days into March.

Some important committee work has been done the past week and some portions of it has had preliminary action in the Legislature. The Judiciary Committee has voted 6 to 3 to report a bill abolishing the death penalty. Two reports will be made to the Legislature and a spirited and somewhat prolonged debate may be expected. The indications now are that the death penalty will be abolished, and the statutes amended so as to conform to public opinion and the practice of the State Executive, in most cases, for many years.

The Woman Suffrage question has probably received its quietus for the session. The committee was evenly divided upon the question of reporting a bill and by common consent the subject will be allowed to rest until the session of 1874-5.

Bills have been reported and printed for taxing ice when cut in certain places and charters for private corporations. The question of taxing railroads, insurance companies and saving banks will come before the Legislature during the present week.

In the Senate on Thursday the committee on Fisheries reported an act to amend chap. 99 of the laws of 1873, entitled "an act to regulate the close-time for the taking of trout in the tributaries of the Androscoggin river." Read and assigned. [The bill provides that the yearly close-time in the tributaries of the Androscoggin river above the outlet of Umbagog Lake shall be five months, commencing Oct. 1 and ending March 1.

The committee on towns reported leave to withdraw on the petition for annexing a portion of Cape Elizabeth to Portland. The report was tabled to give an opportunity for a minority report.

Mr. Shaw moved to reconsider the vote whereby the Senate passed to be engrossed an act additional to chap. 24 of the revised statutes respecting the liability of railroads for paupers, and it was so voted. A motion to indefinitely postpone was opposed and the question was assigned. The following were passed finally:

Acts to make valid certain doings of the town of Franklin in relation to school district; to protect fish in the waters of the town of Raymond; to legalize the doings of the town of Madawaska at their annual March meeting in '71; to incorporate the St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Asylum; abating a portion of the State tax of Waterville, and assessing the same upon West Waterville; to abate the State tax of Clinton Gore for 1873 and assess the same upon the towns of Clinton and Burnham; to incorporate the Old Orchard Beach Association; an act confirming the articles of agreement of the European & North American Railway Company. Resolve in favor of the town of Atkins.

In the House Mr. Knowlton introduced an order which was passed providing for the payment of travel and attendance of those who are summoned to appear before the committee to investigate the affairs of the State Prison.

Mr. North, from the Committee on the Judiciary, on order reported bill an act to amend sec. 10 of chap. 3 of the revised statutes, relating to auditors of accounts. [This provides for an auditor of town accounts if one-third of the voters require it.]

Mr. Moulton, from Committee on Education, on order, reported bill an act to amend the public laws of '73, relating to free high schools. [This bill provides that two or more adjoining towns may unite in the establishment of free a high school, instead of "two adjoining towns," as now provided.]

In the Senate Friday the following bills were passed finally and sent to the Governor:

Acts to incorporate the Chebeague Island Wharf Co.; to incorporate the Kennebec Valley Butter and Cheese Co.; to incorporate the Waldo Dairying Manufacturing Association; to incorporate the New England Rolling Stock Co.; to incorporate the North Monmouth, New Gloucester and Palermo Cheese Factory Associations; to amend sec. 57 chap. 2. of the revised statutes for the further security of the sinking fund; to amend sec. 8 of chap. 136 of the revised statutes, relating to fines and costs in criminal cases; in relation to the assessment of school district taxes; authorizing the construction of a wharf in the town of Bowdoinham; to authorize Benj. F. Bucknam and Gilbert L. Bucknam to build a wharf into tide waters of Pleasant river; to increase the capital stock of the Earle Slate Quarry; to incorporate the Winthrop Cheese Factory Association; to incorporate the Corinth Cheese and Canning Factory Association; additional to chap. 90 of the revised statues relating to the discharge of mortgages.

In the House the committee on the Insane Hospital were directed to visit the Baxter farm at Gorham and report upon its adaptation as a site for a new Insane Hospital.

A bill was reported providing for removing from the Insane Hospital all such patients as can conveniently be cared for elsewhere. If the provisions of this bill can be rigidly enforced, it will relieve very much the crowded condition of the Hospital.

The bill authorizing the Maine Central railroad to change its location and construct a new bridge at College Rips was amended so as to make the company responsible to the Kennebec Log Driving Company for the cost of keeping the abutments free from logs, and for all the damage caused by flowage; and that the charters of the several railroad corporations, constituting the Maine Central R. R. Co., shall be subject to amendments and alterations by the legislature, and as amended was put upon its passage to be engrossed.

In the House a veto message was received and the veto was sustained by a unanimous vote of the House.

A bill was offered providing that Memorial Day (May 30) shall be a legal holiday.

In the Senate Monday the resolve providing for a statue of Gen. Knox was amended so as to limit the outlay to five thousand dollars, and was then passed.

The following are the bills which were passed to be enacted:

Acts additional to chap. 124 of the revised statutes, relating to morality and decency; to amend chap. 11, sec. 7 of the revised statutes, relating to the apportionment of school money; to extend the time for the Aroostook Steam Boat Co., to commence running steamboats on the Aroostook river; to make valid the doings of the inhabitants of No. 3, Range 3, Somerset county; to incorporate the North Wayne Cheese Co.; to incorporate the North Auburn Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co.; additional to the act establishing the Auburn Aqueduct Co.; to incorporate the Maine Sportsmen Association; to make legal the doings of the Livermore Falls Bridge Co.; to amend an act authorizing the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad Co., to locate and construct branch lines, approved Jan. 6th, 1872; to amend sec. 42 chap. 51 of the revised statutes relating to the stopping of railroads trains at crossings; to incorporate the Imperial Slate Co. of Monson; for the extension of the Somerset Railroad; to legalize the doings of School District No. 18 in the town of Bristol; to amend sec. 44, of chap. 11 of the Revised Statutes relating to school district taxes; for the preservation of pickerel in Lovejoy's Pond in Albion; to incorporate the Maine Sabbath School Association; establishing the boundaries of Medway; to repeal chap. 675 of the private laws of '71, entitled an act to incorporate the trustees of the Bangor Masonic Fraternity; to increase the capital stock of the North Bank; additional to the acts which constitute the charter of Colby University; regulating the weight of apples; to amend sec. 65 of chap. 64 of the revised statutes relating to embezzlement of property of deceased persons; to increase the capital stock of the Saco Water Power Co.; to incorporate the trustees of the Eaton Family and Day School at Norridgewock.

The business of the House was mostly routine and not of special importance.

In the Senate on Tuesday the bill relating to the liability of railroads for bringing paupers into the State was assigned to Friday. Act authorizing the Maine Central Railroad Company to build a bridge at College Rips was tabled. The report of the Liquor Commissioner was ordered printed.

In the House the bill to provide further protection to the inmates of the Insane Hospital, and to guard against errors in commitments, being on its passage to be enacted, Mr. Bradbury of Oldtown, moved that it be recommitted to the Committee on Insane Hospital, with instructions to strike from the bill the provision for a board of visitors.

After some discussion the motion to recommit was carried 77 to 53, and the motion to instruct the committee was lost. Remonstrances bearing four or five thousand names against the petition for a repeal of the law requiring inn-holders to give bonds, were presented.

Wednesday in the Senate, a bill was introduced to abolish the death penalty and was ordered printed. The Committee on Agriculture reported an act to incorporate the Maine State Breeders' Association. [This bill incorporates Hall C. Burleigh, Wm. P. Blake, Geo. E. Shores, Ephraim Maxham, Levi A. Dow, Chas. F. Barrel, Wm. E. Drummond, John Matthews, Ira H. Dow, Joseph Percival, Wm. H. Pearson and Jones R. Hilton into Maine Stock Breeders Association, for the promotion and improvement of all kinds of stock.]

In the House the question of a new county to be called Appleton was referred to the next Legislature. A resolve in favor of the Agricultural College (appropriates $12,500) was introduced and laid over under the rules. The lobster question occupied most of the session.

The Judiciary Committee have reported adversely to the railroad force bill and general railroad law. They will also report adversely on the petition of H. Baker et als for a repeal of the inn-holders bond law.

These important questions being disposed of in Committee will tend to shorten the session.

For the Maine Farmer.

Duties of Temperance Societies.

In the Farmer of Jan. 31st, "Citizen" of Vassalboro, was led to enquire "what are the aims and duties of such organizations?" meaning temperance societies. And while I have no doubt the question will be answered by those who are well qualified for the task, I would like to add my mite as I understand the matter.

First, the aims of Good Templars are, to unite all moral and social elements of society in the cause of temperance; to draw in those who have gone or are liable to go astray, and interest them in the cause, and show them that there can be enjoyment found in the paths of virtue, and thereby warn them from places where they would be in danger; to induce them to sign the pledge and make them feel thereafter that they are watched, and will be reported and held accountable if they violate it, and will be appreciated and encouraged if they preserve the right; to make the Lodge room a place to which their minds will fondly turn when they seek for companions and amusements away from home, instead of leaning toward places where they would be helped in a downward career.

And second, by accomplishing these objects to so influence the public mind as to make it more willing to investigate the arguments in favor of temperance.

As regards the duties of temperance societies or the members thereof, I do not know that they have any duties outside of the society more than other citizens. And in the case complained of by "Citizen," if a Good Templar should commence a legal action and bring the offender to justice, the opposing party would not only be turned against the individual, but against every member of the same society and this would prevent the society from growing or exerting the influence which it might, by working in a more quiet and less aggressive way.

I should consider it the duty of every citizen to complain of the rumseller as soon as he could get proof of his guilt, and if I knew of a man in this town who was selling liquor in violation of the law, I would not wait a quarter of a century for a temperance society to spring up, upon which to shirk the dirty work or call on the women to do it.

There are those in every place who, as soon as a temperance society is organized, will see drunkenness and wonder that it is not stopped, if they never had been disturbed by it before.

O. H. L.

County Items. Rev. A. S. Ladd of Biddeford, delivered a lecture last Friday evening, before the Calliopean Society, connected with the Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, at at Kents Hill. His subject was "Manliness," and was handled in a pleasing and interesting manner. All who had the privilege of listening to the lecture can but profit from it.—A Winthrop correspondent referring to the energy with which local officers and sheriffs are enforcing the law against dram shops in various parts of the State, expresses the hope that the good work may reach that village. Mr. E. F. Hunt, one of the most respected citizens of Hallowell, died suddenly last Wednesday.—The County Commissioners of Kennebec and Somerset have, by a vote of 5 to 1, decided not to accept the offer of the Fairfield Bridge Corporation, to relinquish to the two counties the toll bridge between Fairfield and Waterville.—The iron railroad bridge between Waterville and Fairfield has been contracted for in Pennsylvania for $50,000, and to be completed in four weeks.—The Gardiner Journal says there is quite a revival in Warren Division, Sons of Temperance.—John G. Bradley of East Vassalboro', while taking care of horses last Thursday, lost six teeth, had his jaw badly bruised and received an ugly cut on the cheek, by a kick from one of the horses.—The ice companies at Gardiner and vicinity are very busy building new ice houses, and stocking them from the Kennebec river.—The Chronicle says that a few days since a young lady by the name of Ada Voglper, of Waterville, while in the act of kneeling in the Catholic church, was observed by a young lady who sat by her side to grow suddenly pale, and upon approaching her was heard to say, "I cannot go home?" Immediately thereafter she fell into a swoon, from which no effort on the part of the members present, nor of a physician, could arouse her until two days and a half had elapsed, when she suddenly awoke and called for drink. She had been ill for several days, but on coming to herself was in usual health.—C. R. McFadden, Esq., of Waterville, recently celebrated his silver wedding.—The Gardiner Journal says that E. F. Willett slipped in Smith & Gardiner's carriage manufactory, and dislocated his ankle. His wife broke her arm a short time since. Both are now under medical treatment.

Trains Delayed. A wash-out in the Maine Central track near Vassalboro' caused by the heavy storm, delayed the through train from West for a long time Saturday. At first it was thought that the track could be repaired so that the train could pass; but after four hours' waiting the idea was abandoned, and a train sent for, which backed down from Waterville and took the passengers, who walked over the break. The train arrived at Bangor about 1.30 yesterday morning. The outgoing Pullman train for Boston Saturday night and that from Boston, passed over the upper route, via Lewiston.

Large Beeves. The Houghton Brothers of Belgrade, brought into this market on Friday week, a pair of splendid Durham cattle girthing 8 ft., 4 in. each, and weighing 4800 lbs. This pair was raised by Mr. Moses Alexander of Belgrade. The same parties have also recently purchased of Mr. Alexander two pair besides, both very handsome and evenly matched, which girthed 7 ft., 8 in. and 7 ft., 4 in. respectively. These choice beeves will probably be slaughtered for the benefit of our epicurean members of the Legislature.

Shocking Accident. The *Whig* says that on Tuesday of last week, Mr. William H. Hurlbut of Wesley, at work on Township No. 41, for James McReavy, felled a tree which slipped over the stump and pinned him to the ground, badly crushing one of his legs. A man started with him, the first day making but four miles and on the second day arrived at Mr. Hayward's, in Wesley, where he now remains. For more than four days the wounds were undressed, and amputation of the leg will no doubt have to be performed.

Items of Maine News.

A lodge of the Knights of Pythias is soon to be organized in Bridgton.

The house of Mr. Chandler Pilley in Southport, was destroyed by fire Feb. 3d.

The Postmaster General has appointed David Chick to be Postmaster at Wells Beach.

The Thomaston National Bank will erect a splendid banking building the coming season.

The Legislative Committee, with other members, visited the State College at Orono on Friday.

A cant-dog manufactory at Bangor employs six men and turns out about 100 cant-dogs a week.

Two car-loads of starch from the starch factory in Caribou, passed through Bangor on Monday.

The Caribou Cheese Factory Association have decided on a lot on which to locate their factory.

The Grand Jury of Penobscot county returned forty-five indictments to the S. J. Court on Tuesday.

Mr. E. C. Pray of Houlton, had nine sheep killed and two others badly mangled by dogs a few nights since.

During the year 1873 there were twenty-five deaths in Thomaston, out of a population of about 3000.

A Post-Office has been established at South Winn, Maine, and E. Thurlow appointed Postmaster.

The school-house at the head of Goose Pond, in Swanville, was burned Feb. 4th, with most of the books.

West Cunningham of Jefferson, has been arrested on charge of embezzlement, and taken to Boston for trial.

Mr. L. B. Smart of Whitney Ridge, recently caught three Canadian lynxes in one trap, all in one day.

Work upon the Penobscot and Bangor railroad bridge, across the Penobscot at Bangor, is to commence immediately.

The total loss by the fire in Bangor, which destroyed the E. & N. A. Railway block, was $14,900; insurance $11,000.

The Phoenix House stable at Belfast caught fire last Monday, endangering the hotel. Fortunately, the fire was soon subdued.

The News states that Mrs. D. M. Herrick of Bridgton, was badly injured by being thrown out of a sleigh last Wednesday.

The late storm was so severe and blocked up the roads so completely, that no stages left Machias from Tuesday until Friday.

Burleigh Taylor and Mrs. Susan Littlefield of North Berwick, have been bound over to the May term of court, on a charge of adultery.

A new lime kiln has been built at Duck Trap, Lincolnville, for a company just formed, and another kiln is to be built in a short time.

The Journal says the shipments of boots and shoes from Auburn and Lewiston the past week were the heaviest since November last.

Mr. H. L. Leonard of Bangor, has recently taken 50,000 salmon eggs from the works in Bucksport, to be placed in the tributaries of Sebec Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Chandler Lane of Saco, celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their wedded life at the Beach House, Old Orchard, last Thursday evening.

It appears from the Voice that the recent snow storm did not amount to much in the Aroostook woods—only from an inch to four inches having fallen.

The Journal says it is impossible, in some parts of the country roads, for two teams to pass each other, without unharnessing and hauling one by "light."

Scarlet fever, canker-rash, measles and mumps are very prevalent in Thomaston, and interfere much with the regular attendance of the school children.

The Register says the house occupied by Chas. Thomas, in Greenwood, was consumed by fire Feb. 11th. The house was owned by Daniel Young, of West Paris.

Fort Fairfield wants steam power to carry all the mills and machinery works needed in that thriving place—the water power not being sufficient the year round.

The number of arrests made in Biddeford for eleven months, up to Jan. 31st, was 335; of which 141 was for intoxication and 110 for violation of the liquor law.

The Age says a sound, healthy infant was found on the stoop of Mr. Hill's hotel in Brooks, one evening last week. Mr. H. not having any children, adopted the waif.

Pine Tree Lodge, the new Masonic Lodge at Mattawamkeag, has now thirty-two members, and occupies Smith's Hall, which has been fitted up for its accommodation.

The following patents were issued to Maine inventors under date of Jan. 27th, 1874: Abel Davis, New Portland, harness hame; Henry Jones, Portland, knob latch.

Six of the eight prisoners confined in the Belfast jail, planned for an escape last Sunday, but their plan was discovered by the jailor, and their hopes and expectations were blasted.

The Register says two horses died in the vicinity of Buckfield last week. One of them died of lung fever; the other of a distemper resembling the epizootic in its most malignant form.

Several gentlemen of Saco think they distinctly felt a shock of an earthquake about half past six o'clock Thursday morning. There was a shaking of windows and rumbling sound.

The Lewiston Journal says a screech owl recently flew into a lady's chamber in the town of Webster and was captured alive, but was afterwards turned over to a bird-stuffer, who dispatched and mounted him.

The Age says fears are entertained of the safety of one of our Belfast vessels, schooner A. Hayford, Capt. F. S. Coombs. She left Boston for this city three weeks ago, and has not since been heard from.

Col. William Thompson has in his yard in Kennebunkport a ship of 2250 tons burthen, ready to launch. She is the largest vessel ever built in York county, and by some claimed to be the largest in the State.

The Bangor Whig says that the work of re-building the E. & N. A. depot block on Exchange street, was commenced Saturday, by a large force of carpenters. It is proposed to cover the building with a Mansard roof this time.

The Journal says an Auburn merchant went into his store one morning last week at 7:30. In less than two hours he had been interviewed by thirteen "runners." He is now trying to bargain for a double-barreled shot gun.

Parties from Bangor have been in Vanceboro' the past week, examining the mill privilege about a mile below the town, It is said to be the best privilege on the river, and they talk of erecting a mill there the coming summer.

A fire company, consisting of eight men, has been raised in Bangor to take charge of the chemical fire engine recently purchased by the city. The city has a right to return the engine if after a year's trial it does not prove satisfactory.

Our correspondent (W. H. M.) says a dance was held in a private house in Waldoboro', the other Sunday, and was kept up through the day, attracting considerable attention from passers by. This must be a good field for missionary effort.

Mr. Isaac Rowell of Madison, while at work in his wood lot Saturday, Jan. 31st, got badly hurt by a limb striking him on the head, knocking him down and breaking his skull. He lived a few days in an insensible state, but died on the 4th inst.

Mr. William H. Hurlburt of Wesley, while at work last week at Township No. 41, had one of his legs crushed by a falling tree. It was four days before he could get surgical assistance, and now amputation of the leg will have to be performed.

Mr. Amasa Bartlett of Orrington, now in his 84th year, and his wife now 80, have lived together as husband and wife fifty-nine years. A few days since all their descendants now living assembled at the old homestead. The family numbered thirty-four.

The Woolen Factory at Orland has suspended business for the present, on account of dull markets for the sale of their goods. They have been making repellants only, and when they start again it is thought they will work on a different class of goods.

The Lewiston Journal says Mr. Jas. Fairgrieve, late Superintendent of the Pondicherry Mills, at Bridgton, and still later of the firm of Frirgrieve, Lake & Co., has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Aurora Mills, Lewiston, owned by D. Cowan & Co.

The Bangor Whig says that a young bankrupt of that city, who numbers among his victims nearly every printer and hotel proprietor between St. John and Boston, manages to dash around with a fast horse every pleasant afternoon, while the parties whom he has swindled are plodding along on foot.

The lime manufacturers of Rockland and vicinity, outside the Cobb Lime Company, held a meeting Wednesday to arrange their business for the coming season. A committee was appointed to see all the manufacturers and arrange some definite plan of action, and the meeting adjourned to Saturday.

A man who gave his name as Charles Roberts, and says he belongs in New Market, N. H., was arrested in Hampden Friday, on a charge of having stolen a horse, sleigh and harness from Dr. F. C. Hall, at South West Bend, Durham, last Tuesday. He had offered to sell the team, which was worth $300, for $400, in Bangor.

Items of General News.

The Czar of Russia is indisposed.

Coal shale is now made into brick to be used for fuel.

The internal revenue receipts Monday were $471,568.

The Dominion Parliament will meet about the 18th of March.

The laborers on the Lowell & Andover railroad are on a strike.

Alexander H. Stevens is quite ill with neuralgia of the kidneys.

The New Jersey Legislature has rejected the local option bill.

A census just completed makes the population of Japan 33,000,000.

Two persons were severely injured by snow slides in Boston Tuesday.

Gen. Alexander Von Luders, of the Prussian army, died Sunday.

The Emperor of Austria has gone to St. Petersburg to visit the Czar.

Achison, Mich., reports a $75,000 fire—the whole of Central block.

The Wentworth Carpet Lining Factory of Waltham, was burned Monday.

It is denied that there is any difficulty between the United States and Germany.

The Mississippi House by a vote of 54 to 33, has invited Senator Alcorn to resign.

Vessels arriving in New York Monday, report damages by the storm of last week.

The Holyoke mill at Holyoke, Mass., was damaged $30,000 by fire Tuesday night.

The total assets of banking and insurance companies in Hartford, Connecticut, are $139,193,836.

A boiler exploded in a saw mill at Mutual, Ohio, Friday, killing two persons and injuring two others.

The New York Sun says that the new post office building comes under the category of unsafe buildings.

Leonard Womboldt has been arrested for killing his wife with a pistol Monday night in Philadelphia.

The National Grange has adjourned to meet in Charleston the first Wednesday in February, 1875.

Police officer James Jackson of Philadelphia hanged himself in his cellar Monday. Cause unknown.

Love is a thing of four letters, yet sometimes, in a breach of promise case, hundreds are produced.

Dr. J. H. Schenck, the well known proprietor of several patent medicines, died in Philadelphia, Wednesday.

A Washington special states that Marshal Packard arrived at New Orleans to take charge of Louisiana affairs.

The woman's crusade against the rum shops has spread into Jeffersonville, Ind., where 200 women are engaged in it.

A little Duluth boy, 16 years old, hung himself the other day, because he could not whip his teacher in a fair fight.

Now that the Ashantee war is ended, General Wolsley and his troops will embark for England on the 1st of March.

A New York despatch says it is reported that James Gordon Bennett has given $50,000 for the relief of the poor,

Robert E. Launitz, the sculptor, died in a hospital in New York Saturday, from injuries received by a railroad collision.

It is estimated that a pair of healthy sparrows having a family to bring up will consume over 3000 caterpillars a week.

Two victories of the Cuban insurgents over small Spanish forces are reported. The Cuban General Francisco Marceo is dead.

No proof is found that Gov. Booth of California, or any of his friends, attempted to buy votes in the late Senatorial election.

A detachment of U. S. troops from Fort Hamilton broke up an illicit whiskey still and seized $12,000 worth of property.

The Cunard steamship Parthia, Capt. Watson, which sailed from Boston Jan. 31, arrived at Liverpool on Feb. 12 at 6 P. M.

The amount estimated to have been paid as passage money between this country and Great Britain last year is $20,000,000.

It is stated that 250 persons who have been adjudged insane by the courts of Illinois were made so by the great fire in Chicago.

Gen. Smith at Fort Laramie has given orders to intercept a trains bearing arms sent by the Interior Department to hostile Sioux.

Nobody to blame is the verdict of the inspectors in regard to the recent collision of the steamers Newport and Davis on the Sound.

Rumors of Indian troubles continue. The Sioux and Arapahoes can bring out 8000 men against 12 companies of infantry and cavalry.

The new City Hall in San Francisco will cost about $5,000,000; $1,400,000 has already been expended upon the grounds and one story.

Good Templarism is quite popular in the Isle of Wight, England, and the Order appears to be doing effectual work in the temperance cause.

The reporter of the Brooklyn Argus has been expelled from the New York Senate until he proves certain charges made against Senator Coe.

The swearing in of new Senators from Mississippi and Kansas on Thursday now leaves only one vacancy in the Senate—that from Louisiana.

A St. Louis dispatch says that the robbers of the Adams Express Company at Grantly has been discovered and the money returned. No arrests.

The District of Columbia Investigating Committee has met and appointed a sub-committee to make the investigation which is to be opened to all.

DeYoung Brothers of the San Francisco Chronicle, have been placed under $50,000 bonds each to keep the peace towards B. Napthaly, editor of the Sun.

Patrick Cady hung himself in his house in the outskirts of New Haven on Friday night. The cause was depression owing to having been out of work.

The defaulting Treasurer of Jersey City, A. D. Hamilton, has been arrested at Brownville, Texas. He was arrested at Corpus Christi, but bought off for $8000.

A Dublin despatch says that the Irish Rifle Association of that city have accepted the conditions on which the American riflemen are willing to compete.

The Boston Grangers can now hang up their implements of husbandry, for the National Grange has unceremoniously kicked them out of the organization.

Of the new trade dollar already $1,500,000 have been coined, and the demand far exceeds the supply. In China it is rapidly superceding the Mexican dollar.

George R. Wilkins of Leominster, Mass., was arrested Wednesday for a murder committed in Calhoun county, Cal., in 1872. He was on bail and ran away.

A despatch from Rome states that the Pope will hold another Consistory in June next, when eight more cardinals will be created, including Archbishop Manning.

The fee on registered letters is reduced to eight cents to any part of the United States, England and Germany, and five cents to Canada and the British Provinces.

Thomas Campbell, aged 70 years, was found drowned in his cistern in Newport, R. I., Monday morning. The verdict of the jury of inquest was accidentally drowned.

Charles P. Wood of Hollis, who was sentenced to the New Hampshire State Prison for rape, has been pardoned by the Governor and Council. He had served a little over two years.

There is continued excitement in Nebraska and Wyoming territory regarding Indian outrages. Various parties have been fired upon by the Indians, but without serious results.

The Secretary of the Treasury has received and sent to the House Appropriation Committee a memorial from the leading manufacturers of Baltimore against the eight hour law.

Philip D. Crie, cashier of the Atlantic branch of the Freedmen's Saving Bank and Trust Co. of Georgia, has been arrested for embezzlement. His defalcation is estimated at $100,000.

The Chicago Tribune has the following genial head lines: "Half a Day Well Spent by the Illinois Legislature; It was the Last Half of Yesterday Adjournment Being Taken at Noon."

Gen. R. H. Melroy, Indian Superintendent in Washington Territory, has been returned to his position, from which he was suspended, having been exonerated of the charges preferred.

Senator Stewart's new house in Washington commands a view of twelve streets, and is conveniently arranged for a dancing academy, having a Doric, a Gothic and a Corinthian dancing room.

Geo. Hatch is wanted in Newark, he having engaged to marry a widow, Mary J. Johnson, having obtained possession of some $5000 of her money, Thursday, since when he has not been seen.

South American advices state that the yellow fever continues unabated at Rio, and cholera is raging with great violence in Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. Thousands have fled from those cities.

The resolutions of the Massachusetts Legislature concerning the action of Senator Sumner, relative to his resolution so remove from regimental flags the battles of the rebellion, were rescinded Wednesday by a vote of 26 to 7.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18.

At market for the current week—Cattle 3106; Sheep and Lambs 13,264; Swine 9,820; number of Western Cattle 2787. Northern Cattle and Working Oxen and Milch Cows, 25; Eastern Cattle, 18

Prices of Beef Cattle, per 100 lbs. live weight, extra quality $7 00a7 50; first quality $6 25a6 75. Second quality $5 50a6 00; third quality $4@5 25; poorest grade of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., $3 25a4 00.

Brighton Hides—7½a8c per lb. Brighton Tallow 5½ per lb.

Country Hides— 7½c per lb. Country Tallow 4½ per lb.

Calf Skins—16a18c per lb. Sheep Skins $1 75 each.

The supply of Cattle in market for the week has been larger than the demand required, especially of Cattle of an inferior grade. There were but few lots of Beeves among those from the West. Cattle cost higher at Albany, but prices obtained here were not any better than those of our last quotations. There were but few Cattle sold for more than 7c per lb this week.

Working Oxen—Light supply in market. We quote sales of 1 pr. 6th 7 ft, 2in, @215; 1 pr, 7 ft 4 in, @240; 1pr, 6 ft 6 in, @160; 1 pr, 6 ft 6 in, @125; 1 pr, 6 ft, 8 in, @170. There will probably be Working Oxen brought in from Maine every week during the spring months.

Store Cattle—Nearly all the small Cattle that are brought into market in a fair condition are sold for Beef. Prices depend much on their value for Beef. But very few in market.

Milch Cows—Extra $55@0; ordinary $25a30; Store Cows $18a45 ⅌ head. Most of the Cows offered in market for sale are of a common grade. The sale for Milch Cows will improve as the season advances.

Sheep and Lambs—From the West there was a large supply, all owned by butchers, one dealer having 6000 head. Western Sheep cost landed at Brighton from 6¼a6c per lb. From the North the supply was light.

Swine—Store Pigs—wholesale, 6¼a7c ⅌ lb; retail, 6¾a7¼c ⅌ lb; Fat Hogs—9@10 m market; prices 6¾a7¼c ⅌ pound.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Feb. 18.

We notice a comparatively quiet market for Wool, but in prices no material change. The opening of the London sales are anxiously looked for and there is a confident feeling that prices will be sustained, and consequently no pressure to sell on the part of holders. The sales include 175,000 lbs Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces, common to XX and above, at 49@55c; 50,000 lbs Michigan at 50a53c; 65,000 lbs combing and delaine fleeces at 55a58c; 6 000 lbs northern New York and Maine at 47½a56c; 80,000 lbs unwashed and unmerchantable at 28a42c; 300,000 lbs super and X pulled at 42½a57½c; 325,000 lbs half and spring Californias at 22a36c; 20 000 lbs Oregon at 40a42½c; 7000 lbs tub at 52½a56c; 30,000 lbs scoured at 40@56c, and 2200 lbs noils at 25a55c ⅌ lb.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, Feb. 18.

Flour and Grain—The demand for Flour is quite moderate and prices remain the same; we quote:

Western superfine at $5 25a6 00; common extras at $6 25a7 00; Milwaukee and Minnesota extras at 6 75a8 00; white wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan at $7 50@9 00; Illinois at $7@9; and St. Louis at $8@11 per bbl. Southern Flour is quiet at $6@11 ⅌ bbl. for common extra- and choice family; and fancy Minnesota at $9 50a14 00 ⅌ bbl. Corn is quiet at 81a87c ⅌ bush. for mixed and yellow. Oats are firm at 61@62½c ⅌ bush for brown and white. Rye $1 05a1 10 ⅌ bush. Shorts $24@25; Fine Feed and Middlings at $26@28 ⅌ ton.

Provisions—Pork is steady, sales at $14@15 for prime; $16@17 for mess; and $18 00a20 00 per bbl for clear. Beef ranges from $11@14 00 mess and extra mess, and $16@17 per bbl for family. Lard is at 16c per lb for city and Western; and Smoked Hams 13a13½c per lb. Butter sells at 30a45c per lb; and Cheese from 12a16½c per lb, as to quality.

Produce—White Beans are not quite so firm. The sales of choice mediums have been at $2 10a2 12½, and extra pea, $2 50@2 62½ ⅌ bush; yellow eyes are scarce, and sales in small lots at $2 25@3 50 ⅌ bush. Potatoes have been quite scarce, on account of the bad state of roads in the interior, and prices have advanced to 90c@1 ⅌ bush for Jackson Whites and Early Rose. Onions are firm and have been selling at $5a6 ⅌ bbl. Cranberries are scarce and sales at $13a15 ⅌ bbl. Apples are in more demand, and sales at 10a13½c ⅌ lb, as to quality. Eggs have been selling at 2c ⅌ dozen for fresh eastern, and the market well supplied at this price.

Hay—There is a better feeling for Hay and we notice a firmer market. The sales have been at $25@28 ⅌ ton.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.

Cotton—Sales 3915 bales—middling uplands 21½.

Flour—Sales 30,210 bbls—State $5 80@7 00; Round Hoop Ohio, $6 55a8 00; Western, $5 80@7 65; Southern $6 75a11 00.

Wheat—Sales, 144,000—No 2 Mil., $1 54a1 56; No. 3, $1 50½a—; No. 1 Chi., $1 62a1 63; No. 2, $1 48a1 52½; No. 2 Mixed, $1 46; No. 3, $1 05; Winter Red, $1 70a1 —; Amber, $1 70a; No. 1 Iowa, $1 53a1 54; White Mich., $1 80a1 —; Winter Western, $1 65.

Corn—Sales 72,000 bushels—new, 76a80.

Oats—Sales 39,000 bush. — Western 61½a63.

Pork—Mess, $16 00.

Lard—$½; kettle, 9½; steam, 9¾.

Sugar—Refining, 7¾; No. 12 Da., 8¼—

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.

Gold opened and closed at 112¾.

United States Sixes (coupons) 1881, 120½; 5.20's 1862, 118½; 1864, 119½; 1865, 120½; 1865, (January and July) 119½; 1867, 120½; 1868, 115½; New 5's, 113½; 10-40's (coupons), 115¼.

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19.

Apples—Somewhat scarce, but prices unchanged. Sound No. 1 fruit selling at $4 50a5 ⅌ bbl; in bulk, 75c @1 50 ⅌ bush, according to quality.

Butter—More scarce than for some weeks; a choice article selling for 35a38c; a fair article 28a30c.

Beans—Yellow eye, @2 70a3; very nice hand picked pea beads, $3 25.

Cranberries—From native vines $9 00 per bbl; Cape Cod cranberries, $10,00a$12,00.

Cheese—Choice Livermore and Factory made 15a 16c; common country 14a16c.

Flour—Superfine to common extra, $8 50a9 00; good $9 00a10 00; choice Western $9 50a10 50; St. Louis favorite brands $13 00a13 50.

Grain—Corn, $1 05a1 10; Canada oats at wholesale, 67a70c; no 4yo in market, although we quote western at $1; 75a80c.

Hay—Market fairly supplied, with sales of good quality loose, at $14a16; straw, $8a10, and in demand

Hides and Skins—Hides, 7c ⅌ lb; calf skins, 13a15c; deacons, 25a50c each; wool skins, $1a1 50 according to quality.

Lime—$1 50 ⅌ cask.

Meal—Corn, $1a1 05 ⅌ bush; rye, (none in market) $1 ⅌ bush.

Produce—Potatoes, 60a65c; eggs very plenty and declined ½ 20c; leaf lard, 15c; pot lard 17c.

Shorts—$2.00 per 100 lbs.

Seeds—Western herdgrass, $4 50; clover 12½a15c; red top, $1 25; orchard grass, $3. (Quotations furnished by B. Libbey & Co.)

Provisions—Beef by the side 8a10c; clear salt pork $20 00; fowl 13a18c; hams (domestic) 14a15c; turkeys 22½c; fresh killed mutton 5a10c ⅌ carcass; round hog, scarce, 9c; no geese or ducks in market.

Wool—Quiet, and but little doing; medium to fine, 42a45c; unwashed 26c.

Wood—Hard wood $6a8 ⅌ cord; mill wood, delivered, $4 ⅌ cord.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18.

Apples—Green $3 50a$5 00; Dried 10a12c for Western; Eastern, 10a13.

Beans—We quote hand-picked pea beans at $3 00a 3 25; yellow eyes asked $3 25a 37.

Butter—Is selling at 25a42 cents for family. Store is selling from 15a26c.

Cheese—Factory is selling at 17 to 18.

Vermont and New York Dairy is worth 12a13.

Fish—We quote Large shore, $5 25a5 50; large bank, $4 00a4 50; small, $3 25a3 50; pollock, $2 25a3 25; hake, $1 87a1 75 per quintal; herring, $3 50a4 50 per barrel; scaled per box, 22c27; mackerel, per bbl; Bay, No. 3 to 1 $11 00a17 00; Shore No, 1 and 2, $13a$23.00.

Flour— We quote Superfine, $6 00 a 6 50; Spring ⅌ and XX, $6 50 a 8 50; Michigan Winter X and XX, $8 00a9 50; Illinois X and XX $8 75a9 00; St. Louis X and XX, $8 50a11 50.

Grain—We quote mixed corn at 90c, ana yellow 93a94c. Oats are worth 62a65c, fine feed at $30a32 per ton, and shorts at $28a30 per ton.

Hay—Loose, $14a$20 per ton for prime new and old. Pressed is selling at from $16 to $18. Baled straw is selling at $10a12 per ton for prime.

Lard—Prime Western, per tierce, 10¼a10½c p lb; per keg 10¾a11c.

Plaster—White per ton, $3 50; blue, $3 25; Ground in bbls, $6 00a0 00; calcined in bbls $2 75

Produce— We quote beef side at 9 a 13c; veal 10 a 12; mutton 12 a 15c; Chickens in lots, 13a16c; Turkeys, 15a18c; Eggs, 30c32c; Potatoes 55a75 per bush; Onions, $7 00a7 50 per bbl

Provisions— We quote as follows :— Mess Beef, Chicago, $10 00 a 11 00; Extra Mess, 13 00 a14 00; Plate $14 00; Extra Plate, $18 00; Pork backs, @20 00a21 00; clear, 18 00a20 00; mess, 18 00; Hams, 12a13 ½.

Salt—We quote Turks Island per hogshead, $2 50a 300; Liverpool, du ty paid, $3a3 50; Syracuse, none; Ground Butter, 25c per box.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18.

Beans—New Yellow Eyes have sold at $3 60a3 06 per bush. Hand picked Pea beans $3 12½ per bush

Butter—Is worth from 28a 30 ⅌ lb, according to quality.

Eggs—Selling at 22 cts per dozen.

Hay—The best qualities of new loose sell at $12 to $14 00 per ton. Pressed, $13a16.

Grain—Oats are now worth 70 cents per bushel. Corn, 90c@$1.

Potatoes—Are worth 60c per bush.

Provisions—Good fresh beef, by the side, is worth 6 to 11c per lb; round hogs 9¼a10c; Mutton by the carcass 9a11c.

Wool—The market is more active and buyers are paying 40a45c.

Hides and Skins—Wool Skins $1a1 50 each. Hides are worth 7a7½c per pound.

DEATH OF A VILLAIN. Franklin B. Evans the Northward, N. H. murderer, was executed in the State prison at Concord, Tuesday. He left a written confession not only of the murder of Georgie Lovering, but of a little girl at Derry, N. H., in 1850. He also confessed to having committed the crimes of theft and forgery and of attempting to defraud an insurance company. He gave as a reason for the commission of the murder for which he was to be hanged, that his victim had knowledge of some of his minor crimes and had threatened to expose him. He closed the retrospect of his wicked life as follows:

"I am now an old man. My life has been one of crime and wretchedness, and is to be closed by an ignominious death on the scaffold. My earnest prayer is that my life and death may be a solemn warning to others. I might have led a useful life and left behind me a memory that would not have pained my relatives. But it is now too late. I have endeavored to improve the last few weeks in preparing for eternity. My remorse has been inexpressible. "The sorrows of death have compassed me and the pains of hell have taken hold on me." My only hope is in the great mercy of God. I wish to explain my gratitude to the Warden and Chaplain, who have done for me all they could for my comfort and penitence. Had I been a brother they could have done no more; and I now solemnly affirm that I have confessed all the knowledge I have of any murder. Of the several murders in Maine, Massachusetts and other places, of which I have been suspected, I am entirely innocent. To Him before whom I must soon stand, I appeal, and in his fear I make this solemn declaration."

☞ A fire broke out about one o'clock Saturday morning in a blacksmith-shop in Wiscasset, and destroyed several wooden buildings before its progress could be stayed. The loss was nearly two thousand dollars, which was partially covered by insurance.

Congressional Summary.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11.

SENATE. Several petitions were presented, including one from the Mexican veterans of New York for pensions.

The bank currency bill was then taken up.

The chair submitted a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury in answer to the resolution of the Senate. The Secretary says the capacity of the mints for the coinage of silver, other than trade dollars, is about $10,000,000 per annum, as the issue of fractional currency is $40,000,000 it will take four years to coin enough silver to replace the fractional currency. Referred to Committee on Mines and mining.

The regular order, the bill to withdraw $25,000,000 of national bank currency, was proceeded with. The amendment offered by Mr. Sherman to the section authorizing the Comptroller of Currency to issue the $25,000,000 to those States having less than their proportion, and declaring that the Comptroller might do so without waiting for the return of circulating notes of other banks, was agreed to.

Mr. Merriman moved to strike out the words "twenty five," relating to the amount to be withdrawn and re-issued, and in place thereof insert "seventy-five."

Messrs. Morton, Logan and other expansionists urged a further issue of bank currency, and Messrs. Anthony, Morrill of Vt., and others insisted that any further expansion of the currency would result in evil only.

Without reaching a vote on Mr. Merriman's amendment, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. Several bills on Indian affairs were introduced and referred.

A bill was reported from the Indian Committee making stringent provisions relative to contracts and agreements with the Indians by private parties, and that no government official shall recognize contracts unless endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Indian Commissioner. Passed.

Another bill from the Indian Committee, containing detailed provisions to prevent fraud upon the Indians. Reported and passed.

Mr. Roberts of New York was excused from serving on the District Investigating Committee, and Mr. Bass of Ky., was appointed.

The amendments by the Senate to the joint resolution for a court of inquiry into charges against Gen. Howard were agreed to.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the army appropriation bill. A large number of amendments were offered and rejected, when the committee rose and reported the bill and amendments to the House, all of which were adopted and the bill passed.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12.

SENATE. James E. Harvey was sworn in as Senator from Kansas.

Mr. Mitchell called up the resolution that the Indian Committee enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill reimbursing the citizens of Oregon for damages by Indians. He addressed the Senate in favor of such a bill, denouncing the Modocs, and saying that the insolent defiance of Capt. Jack and his band could not be tolerated. He said the people of Oregon were opposed to the peace policy towards the Indians. The bill was referred to the Indian Committee.

The credentials of H. R. Pierce of Mississippi were presented and he was sworn in.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of the currency.

Mr. Buckingham spoke of the patriotic action of New England during the war in sending both money and men to aid the government. His own State furnished 12½ per cent. more than her quota of troops as well as capital, and it would certainly be an act of injustice for the West now to take from his section that capital which she had earned.

Mr. Allison said that while Congress could by law take the circulation from New England, there was a spirit of equity against withdrawing the whole $75,000,000 from that section. He (Allison) favored the withdrawal of $25,000,000 from other sections. With this modification he would favor the passage of the amendment.

Mr. Wright said he was opposed to the substitute of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Merriman), as it allowed banks already organized to take up the increase, and it would not therefore relieve the South and West. He moved an amendment to the bill as reported by the Committee to strike out the words "twenty-five," and insert "fifty" so the amount of the circulation to be withdrawn and reissued should be fifty instead of twenty-five millions, and upon that question he asked the yeas and nays. He said if there was to be an increase in the currency he would prefer to see that increase in greenbacks and not in national bank notes.

HOUSE. Among the executive documents submitted by the speaker were the response of the Secretary of the Treasury to the call for information in regard to the amount paid for compromises of suits growing out of frauds of New York and Boston custom houses. The document was very voluminous and was ordered printed.

The bill authorizing the sale of the military reservation of Fort Reynolds, Colerado, containing 23 square miles, with the government buildings thereon, in tracts of 80 acres. After amending the bill so as to require three months advertising, it was passed.

The bill making it the duty of the Secretary of War to frequently inquire into the nature of payments by disbursing officers of the army, was passed.

The items of $20,000 each for Forts Foote and Washington, on the Potomac river, were, on motion of Mr. Starkweather of Conn., struck out. The items for Forts Moultrie, Sumter and Pulaski were retained. The appropriations for Fort McHenry, proposed by Mr. O'Brien, and Fort Jefferson, Fla., proposed by Mr. Watts, were refused.

The Committee rose and reported the bill to the House and it was passed.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13.

SENATE. The bill restoring Ensign William Kilburn to the Navy was passed.

Mr. Sargent presented a petition of 16,638 citizens of California, asking the Senate to have the treaty with China modified so as to prevent an influx of Chinemen to this country. Mr. Sargent favored the petition and in the remarks relative to the habits and customs of the Chinese in California, he said that out of one hundred thousand, not one has yet applied for naturalization.

Mr. Sherman insisted on the regular order in the bill to equalize the distribution of currency.

Mr. Merriman of North Carolina said his substitute of yesterday, having been prepared hastily he deemed it expedient to make some changes in the phraseology and with the permission of the Senate he withdrew that and offered a new substitute which provides for the issue of $45,000,000, National Bank Currency, in addition to that now in circulation to be issued to the banks now organized or hereafter to be organized and distributed to the several states in accordance with section 1, of act July 12, 1870.

Mr. Saulsbury reviewed the general financial condition of the country and said the expenses of the government must be curtailed. The people were already taxed too heavily and have bent their necks to the yoke long enough. He deprecated any increase in volume of the currency and agreed that such increase would not relieve the west and south but would seek the money centres of the country.

HOUSE. Mr. Foster of Ohio, from the Ways and means Committee, asked leave to offer a resolution in reference to the Sanborn Contracts, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish copies of all the contracts, schedules, correspondence and orders of the Department, also a statement of the amounts paid in under each contract, by whom paid and under which contract.

Mr. Butler of Massachusetts, said that he objected when that resolution was offered before. The effect of it would be to bring before the country the names of a great many gentlemen who had been accused on ex-parte testimony. He now withdrew his objection, trusting to have such discussion as would be necessary on the bill to be introduced on that subject.

There being no objection the resolution was agreed to.

The bill for ascertaining the losses sustained by the citizens of Southern Oregon and Northern California, by reason of Indian depredations in 1872 and 5873, provoked quite an excited discussion, in which Mr. Shanks of Indiana, defended the memory of Capt. Jack and his Modocs, and stated it was a fact that when Gen. Canby was holding his conference with Capt. Jack, the military lines were being closed around the Modocs.

On the other side of the question, Mr. Nesmith of Oregon, and Mr. Luthrell of California, stood forward as defenders of the frontiersmen and denunciators of the Indians.

The bill itself was opposed by Mr. G. F. Hoar as establishing a dangerous precedent, that the government is responsible for the reimbursement of citizens damaged by war. The same ground was taken by Mr. Garfield who argued that the losses resulted either from private marauders or from public enemies, and that in neither event could citizens look to the government for restitution. At this bill were passed it would open the sluices of the treasury to claims from Ohio and Indiana arising out of the Morgan raids, and from Pennsylvania arising out of Lee's invasion and there would not be a cent left in the treasury.

Finally on motion of Mr. Garfield the enacting clause was stricken out in Committee of the Whole 79 to 68. The Committee thereupon rose and reported its action to the House and it was concurred in. Yeas, 105, Nays 85. So the bill was defeated.

MONDAY, Feb. 16.

SENATE. Mr. Anthony presented a memorial signed by the officers of the National Banks in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, protesting against the withdrawal of currency from New England. Laid on the table.

The credentials of Mr. Withers of Virginia, were presented and laid on the table.

Mr. Moreman, from the Committee on claims, reported without amendment a bill appropriating about $200,000 to pay 208 loyal citizens of Loudon county, Va., for their property destroyed by fire in conformity with Maj. Gen. Sheridan's order. dated Nov. 27th, 1864.

At the expiration of the morning hour the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to equalize the currency.

Mr. Cameron offered a substitute for the Committees' bill, repealing all acts of Congress which limit or restrict the amount of notes for circulation, and providing that all associations organized to carry on business shall be free to establish national banks with a circulation subject to all the limitations now provided by law, except the limit as to circulation, which is hereby repealed.

A long discussion followed which was participted in by Messrs. Cameron, Flanegan, Pratt, Morrill of Maine, &c., when without coming to a vote the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. The following bills were introduced and referred:

By Mr. McJunkin of Pennsylvania, granting pensions to soldiers of 1812 who served fifty days.

By Mr. Kellogg of Connecticut, abolishing the office of appraiser of imported merchandise appointed under the act of July 14, 1810.

By Mr. Lawrence of Ohio, to abolish pension agents and provide for paying pensions by postmasters and collectors of internal revenue, thus effecting an annual saving of half a million dollars.

Mr. Butler of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to amend and codify laws in regard to the payment of pensions so to secure efficiency and economy.

Mr. Kasson, from the Committee on Ways ans Means, reported a bill providing that moneys paid to any collector of into the treasury for customs duties in accordance with any decision or ruling previously made by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall not be refunded or repaid except in pursuance of special appropriations made therefor, or in accordance with the judgment of the United States Court giving construction to the law and from which the Attorney General shall certify that no appeal or writ of error will be taken by the United States; also providing that any ruling or decision once made by the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the customs duties shall be changed by the same or succeeding Secretary, except it be in accordance with an opinion in favor of such change given by the Attorney General or by reason of a judicial decision of the United States Court affecting the same, from which the Attorney General shall certify that no appeal or writ of error will be taken.

Mr. Kasson moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Agreed to and the bill was passed.

Mr. Garfield, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the regular legislative executive and judicial appropriation bill, and moved it be the special order for next Wednesday.

Mr. Woodford of New York, argued that the first great question which called for decision by the House was the status of the $45,000,000 reserve.

The House refused to make this bill a special order for Wednesday, and then it was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17.

SENATE. Petitions were presented from the bankers of St. Louis against an increase of currency, and from New York importers for reforms in collection of custom revenue.

Mr. Gordon introduced a bill directing the Secretary of the Interior to place on the pension roll the names of all persons heretofore dropped therefrom because of participation in the recent rebellion. Referred to the Committee on pensions.

Mr. Buckingham introduced a bill providing that $53 be paid every Cherokee Indian now living east of the Mississippi river who shall join the tribe west of said river, being an amendment to the act of July 29, 1848.

Mr. Carpenter introduced a bill to further protect the polls in the election of President and Vice President and members of Congress. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to contract for the use of the safety ballot box at the polls throughout the United States in the election of President and Vice President and members of Congress, provided that the power to use and cost shall not exceed $15 per box. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. Bogy offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be directed to inquire into the expediency of providing that hereafter all banks be chartered or organized by the States, each State to decide upon the question as to the number of banks and capital required for its legitimate wants, and each State to provide such guaranty to the depositors as may be deemed proper; all banks to be organized under the provision of a law requiring deposits of bonds as now provided for national banks, and the Federal Government to have the keeping of such bonds, the issuing of the currency, and to be responsible for the redemption of circulation. It was agreed to.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of currency, the pending motion being that of Mr. Buckingham to recommit the bill to the Finance Committee. The question was discussed until adjournment at 5 o'clock, without a vote on recommitment.

HOUSE. The contested election case from the 3d District of Arkansas was discussed three hours, and finally a resolution declaring Wilchire entitled prima facie to the seat was adopted. Yeas 151, nays 96.

Mr. Butler of Mass., moved to reconsider and lay the motion on the table. Dilatory motions were made by the Democrats, who wanted it to go over till to-morrow, while the House thinned out to provide for the contingency of an all night session, Butler having his dinner brought to his desk. On a motion to adjourn to Friday no quorum voted. Finally a motion for a call of the House was rejected, and at 6:40 P. M., by a vote of 87 to 81, the House adjourned.

THE SANBORN CONTRACTS. The Secretary of the Treasury has finally complied with the order of Congress and furnished copies of the Sanborn Contracts, which are now exciting public interest. The law authorizing these contracts was attached to the appropriation bill in 1872, and was stricken out, but through the connivance of Butler it was finally passed. The following is the exact text of the law:—

"To employ not more than three persons to assist the proper officers of the government in discovering and collecting any money belonging to the United States, whenever the same shall be withheld by any person or corporation, upon such terms and conditions as he shall deem best for the interests of the United States. But no compensation shall be paid to such persons, except out of the money and property so secured, and no person shall be employed under the provisions of this clause who shall not have fully set forth in a written statement, under oath, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, the character of the claim out of which he proposes to recover, or assist in recovering, moneys for the United States, the laws by the violation of which the same have been withheld and the name of the person, firm or corporation having thus withheld moneys."

The first contract with Sanborn was for the collection of half a million dollars claimed by him to be due upon spirituous and fermented liquors. He was to receive one-half of the gross sum collected, and all costs and expenses of collection. A rich harvest was reaped by Sanborn on the contracts, said to be $650,000, of which he got about one-half. Mr. Sanborn and his friends went along swimmingly until some crooked operations of his in Brooklyn attracted the attention of the United States Attorney in that city, and it is very probable that this affair will undergo a pretty thorough over hauling.

BRILLIANT SUCCESS. It is permitted to few men or companies to achieve acknowledged superiority in any important position or business. The present generation has witnessed stupendous rivalry in several branches of industry, and notably the Sewing Mrchine business. Amid a multitude of competitors, steadily and surely the Wheeler & Wilson Company held their way from the beginning, upon fixed and honorable principles. Long since, their leading position in America was established. Abroad, at London, in 1862, they won the highest premiums; at Paris, in 1867, they distanced eighty-two competitors, and were awarded the highest premium, the only Gold Medal for Sewing Machines exhibited; and lastly, amid unparalleled competition, followed the splendid triumphs at Vienna, noted in our advertising columns.

☞ General Harney thinks that the Indian Bureau should be transferred to the war department. Every sensible and practical person who has paid any attention to the subject will say he is right. Next, he says nearly all the trouble with the Indians arises from unscrupulous agents and traders, who plunder the poor savages and ferment disturbances to make money out of them. He thinks these rascals should be severely punished.

Foreign News.

Great Britain.

London, Feb. 14. Taylor's pantechnicon and furniture repository in Belgravia, covering an acre of ground, was burned last evening. The fire broke out at 4 P. M. and raged until midnight, and the fire was only stopped by the engines demolishing the walls, preventing its progress. The building alone was insured for one million dollars. The total loss, including the contents of the burned structure consisting of pictures, mirrors, five hundred carriages and a vast amount of other goods of various kinds, is estimated $15,000,000.

Five houses and several large stables adjacent were partially destroyed.

There were a number of accidents and two firemen killed.

Spain.

Madrid, Feb. 14. The form of government in Spain will probably be decided by a plebiscite.

Germany.

Berlin, Feb. 16. In the Reichstag to-day Gen. Von Moltke in the speech in support of the new military bill, said: "What we acquired in six months we shall have to protect by force of arms for half a century to come. France, notwithstanding a sloeping treaty of peace, is imitating our army organization." He concluded: "We have become powerful, but remain peaceful. We require an army for defence, not conquest." The bill was referred to a committee.

Italy.

Rome, Feb. 14. Cardinal Tanquini, who was announced seriously ill Thursday, died last night.

London, Feb. 16. The Standard has a dispatch from Rome stating that the Pope will hold another Consistory in June next, when eight more Cardinals will be created, including Archbishop Manning.

Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16. A dinner was given on Saturday evening by the Czar to visitors. In his speech he said the Emperor of Germany, the Queen of England, the Emperor of Austria and himself would preserve the peace of the world. The Prince of Wales, as representative of the Queen, bowed his thanks and the Emperor Francis Joseph responded, reiterating the sentiments of the Czar.

Cuba?

New York, Feb. 16. Santiago advices say that a division of the Cuban army is to move on that place.

A Havana letter announces the death of the Cuban General Francisco Marceo.

The Cuban obtained complete possession of Bayamo on the 24th ultimo. They surprised a small Spanish reconnoitering expedition from Gibara and killed all but 13, who escaped.

The Spanish brigadier, Vascones, at the head of a column of 1200 men, is reported to have been attacked while recently crossing the river Canto by a force of Cubans under Vincente Garcia, losing 600 men and himself killed.

Japan.

San Francisco, Feb. 13. Advices per steamer Japan: The official census of Japan is 33,000,000.

The position of the German Minister Von Brandt, in his dispute with the Japanese Government, is understood to be as follows: He claims that inasmuch as the existing treaties exclude all foreigners from the interior of the empire, the Japanese have already violated it by introducing foreign teachers, etc., for the instruction of their youths, the developement of their mineral resources and other kindred purposes. On this ground he proposes to resist the exclusion of any of his countrymen who choose to travel beyond the prescribed limits, either for pleasure or trade. The native authorities are firm in their resistance to what they call a monstrous assumption.

IMPORTANT RAILWAY PROJECT. Speaking of the tour of inspection made by a committee of Boston & Maine Directors, along the line of the projected Penobscot Bay & River Railroad, the Portland *Argus* says:—

We understand that they formed a very favorable opinion of the route. It is well known that the Boston & Maine desire a through route from Boston to Bangor, and have been laboring for some years to obtain it, and since the gobbling up of the Bath and Portland charter they have been looking in other directions. The Grand Trunk is very desirous of a thorough route to the British Provinces, which they have never had. Now it is proposed, if the Bay and River Railroad Company hasten to complete their road from Bangor to Rockland, that the Grand Trunk will build a branch from their road in the vicinity of Yarmouth Junction to Bath, a distance of from ten to twenty miles, thus forming, with the Knox and Lincoln road, a through line to Bangor and thence by the E. & N. A. road to St. John, and from the connection of the Boston & Maine with the Grand Trunk a through line from Boston to St. John. If carried out this project is of great importance.

Special Notices.

The Living Telegraph.

Symptoms are the silent characters through which the diseased body telegraphs its condition. But they are not always read aright, and the medicines administered sometimes aggravate instead of relieving the complaint. Conspicuous among the instances of malpractice which are of daily occurrence, is the habit of dosing dyspeptic and constipated invalids with powerful cathartics. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, in which are skillfully blended the vegetable elements best adapted to the invigoration of the stomach, and regulation, without violence, of regular discharges from the bowels, should be taken twice or thrice a day as a remedy for indigestion of every type, and for costiveness, whether chronic or casual. No other medicine will be found equal and the cure will be rapid and painless. No medicine, as yet discovered or compounded, equals Hostetter's Bitters as a specific for all affections of the liver, as well as for diseases of the stomach, the bowels and the nerves.

For Jaundice, Headache, Constipation, Impure Blood, Pain in the Shoulders, Tightness of the Chest, Dizziness, Sour Eructations of the Stomach, Bad taste in mouth, Bilious attacks, Pain in region of Kidneys, Internal Fever, Bloated feeling about the stomach, Nightmare, Dryness of Blood to the head, High Colored Urine, and Gloomy Forebodings, take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets In explanation of the remedial power of these little Pellets over such a variety of diseases, it is proper to say that their action upon the animal economy is universal, not a part of it escaping their sanative impress. 25 cents a vial, by all first-class Druggists.

About Bitters.—At certain periods of life a tonic is a necessity; but there is danger in using stimulants that injure the organs of digestion while giving temporary relief. To obviate this, and present to the world a safe and sure Tonic Poison, Dr. Greene prepared the OXYGENATED BITTERS. A sure cure for Dyspepsia and all kindred complaints. Sold everywhere. 8 and 9 College Place, New York. Dr. Henry, Curran & Co., Proprietors, 8 and 9 College Place, New York. 12

The French Surgeons announce that Consumption is not incurable. But they don't cure it. The only remedy that seems to effect this object is HALE'S HONEY OF HOREHOUND AND TAR.

Pike's Toothache Drops cure in 1 minute.

A protruding toe is not a sightly thing, say nothing about health and comfort. SILVER TIPPED Shoes never wear out the toe.

For Sale by all Dealers. 3d11

"NOTHING BETTER." Cutler Bros. Boston, Dr. John Wesley's celebrated VEGETABLE PULMONARY BALSAM, for Colds and Consumption. 3m8

Married.

In Palermo, 31st ult., by Rev. Wm. J. Clifford, Hollis F. Foy to Mrs. Sarah A. Foy, both of Palermo. Also by the same, 11th inst., Frederick S. Woodman of Fairfield, to Helen A. Wood of Palermo.

In Round Pond, 30th inst., by Rev. E. M. Fowler, Charles D. Creamer of Waldoboro' to Rhoda L. Weston of Bremen.

In Albion, 1st inst., by Rev. H. B. Sawyer, Calvin H. Chalmers to Sybil Smiley, both of Albion.

In Phillips, 8th inst., N. H Purrington to Mrs. Hannah H. Adams, both of Phillips.

In Camden, 7th inst., Orris B. Worster of Camden to Miss Ella F. Metcalf of Hope.

In Mercer, 1st inst., John S. Pike to Mrs. Mary A. Gage.

In Providence, 11th inst., by Rev. Dr. Granger, Edward A. Greene, of Central Falls, to Annie Badger, daughter of the late Mr. John R. Houghton of Providence R. I.

In Bridgton, 8th inst., by Rev. J. T. Rea, Samuel W. Porter of Gilead, to Julia L. Smith of Bridgton.

In Kezar Falls, 9th inst., by A. J. Mitchel, Everett W. Lord and Clara Flye, both of Hiram.

In Brownfield, 1st inst., by J. L Frink, George Tripp to Sarah Day, both of Brownfield.

Died.

In this city, 17th inst., Deacon John Means, aged 84 years.

In Lewiston, 14th inst., Oliver Waterman, aged 59 years.

In Monticello, Minn., 28th ult., Mr. Solom Hatch, formerly of Windsor Me., aged 61 years and 4 mo.

In Weld, 4th inst., Lewis Libby, aged about 17 years.

In Naples, 22d ult., Emeline B. Marston, aged 43 59 years.

In Smithfield, 4th inst., Mrs. Mercy Walker, aged 59 years.

In Madison, N. H., 6th inst., Mr. Joshua C. Emerson, forearig of Bridgton, aged 73 years, 4 months.

In Harrison, 4th inst., Mr. Phillip Caswell, aged 87 years, 10 months.

In Waterford, 8th inst., Mrs. Hil Longley, aged 75 years.

In Waterville, 12th inst., Mr. Charles E. Williams, aged 39 years.

In East Winthrop, 28th ult., Mrs. Lizzie P., wife of George B. Whiting, aged 22 years 8 months.

In Washington, 31st ult., Mrs. Catharine Daggett, aged 77 years.

In Needham, 31st ult., Mrs. Mary Burkett, formerly of Waldoboro', aged 80 years, 6 months.

JOHN A. LORD,
KENNEBUNK, MAINE.
Breeder of
White and Partridge Cochins, Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, winners of two Silver Cups, three Specials and eight Society's Premiums at the Great Show held in Portland, Maine, Jan. 13—16, '74.
☞ Eggs for hatching, $3 00 per dozen.

Chamois Skins,
SPONGES, Neats foot oil, at
PARTRIDGE'S DRUG STORE.

A Source of Great Anxiety.

My daughter has received great benefit from the use of VEGETINE. Her declining health was a source of great anxiety to all of her friends. A few bottles of the VEGETINE restored her health, strength and appetite. S. H. TILDEN.

Ins. and Real Estate Ag't, 49 Sears Building. Boston, Mass., June 5, 1872.

MOTHERS, READ THIS!
A Great Blessing!
WORTH A DOLLAR A DROP.

Mothers, are your little ones fretful? And is your patience almost exhausted in vain efforts to please them? I can sympathize with you, and can tell you what will make your little child quiet, give it a good appetite, and procure for it hours of sweet, sound sle p.

My little girl is two and a half years old; and during that time I have not had two consecutive nights' rest. She has been sick a number of times and no one seemed to know what was troubling her. It was hard to hear her little fretful cry, and not know what to do for her. I deceived her for *Morus*, but it did no good; and I was nearly tired out with sl.eplessnights and trouble for some days.

I heard of the VEGETINE, and determined to try it. It has proved a blessing to me and my child. It has cleansed from her stomach and bowels the sores which kept festering there; and now she sleeps soundly from her bedtime until very late in the morning, besides a long nap at mid-day. Her appetite is good; and, in fact, she is like a different child. I often say, the true value of this medicine to me is a dollar a drop. Try it. Cleanse the humors from your children's blood while they are young. Try it, and you will join with me in calling it a great blessing. MRS. ELL

Poetry.

"HADST THOU BEEN HERE."

BY FLORENCE PERCY.

Often the simple words return to me,
Pathetic, sad, yet full of faith sincere,
Breathed by the mournful maid of Bethany,
In her deep sorrow and humility,
To him she loved so well—"Hadst thou been here!"

For so, oh, hopeful heart, I think of thee,
In thy continued absence, year on year,—
Saying, when loss or grief has come to me
And I have lacked thy strength so utterly—
"I had not suffered thus, hadst thou been here!"

But ah, in calmer after-thought, I see
By reason's light, dispassionate and clear,
That ev'n thy love could not have kept from me
The penalties of this mortality,
Oh, strong and sheltering soul, hadst thou been here!

For had thy shielding arm encircled me
Through all the years, and kept me close and near,
Still in my treasure moth and rust would be—
Still pain had rent and toil had wearied me,
And years had aged me, even hadst thou been here.

And yet let reason argue as it may,
Those words still hold for me a truth most dear—
For though thou couldst not keep all grief away,
Thy presence would have charged the night to day,
And all been well with me, hadst thou been here.
—*Portland Transcript.*

Our Story Teller.

LITTLE JACK.

BY FRANCIS MARTIN.

On the eighth day the child died, and the mother thought she was thankful when the cries of pain and fear were stilled, and her boy was at peace. Allan was slowly getting better. He was able to sit up for an hour or two, and had even, with his wife's help, contrived to get down stairs and sit by the fire. They talked more than they had done for some time, not about their child, but his funeral. The father had brought from his north-country home an intense feeling of reverence for the dead, and the still, white body of his child was an object for which he was prepared to sacrifice all that he possessed. At length the arrangements for the funeral were completed, but the little parlor was stripped of almost every article of any value to defray its expenses. When the day came, Allan, by the help of two sticks, tottered down to the garden-gate, and leant there, sobbing, as he watched the undertaker carry away on his shoulder the little coffin covered with a pall edged with white. The mother, wearing a large cloak and hood, provided for the day, followed alone, tearless and white. Allan watched them as they passed along the street, white with fresh-fallen snow. He saw doors open and women come out for a moment to look after them, and then draw back hastily out of the cold. The tolling of the church bell fell upon him like a blow, and every stroke said, Alone, Alone, Alone! He saw the empty church that the mother entered, and the little empty grave awaiting his boy, out under the lime-trees at the end of a lonely path. He could endure no more, but tottered back to the house, and, throwing himself down upon the ground, exclaimed, "The hand of the Lord is against me."

How long he lay there he did not know.—When he arose, cold and stiff, the short day was closing. He crawled to the door and looked out, but, there was no sign of Mary. The long white street was silent and empty. He thought: "Some woman has been good to her and taken her in. She is sitting by the fire. Perhaps she will have a good cry and ease her poor heart." He was tender over her, thinking more of her sorrow than his own. "Poor thing, she had a deal to bear," he would say to himself, when she was fierce and moody. "Here am I, no better than a log, and that poor thing's got it all upon her. But we shall manage somehow, and I'll see her righted yet, and her bits of things about her again." But the child's death had crushed him. That could never be set right. The child was taken from her, and how could she go on living without the child?

He went into the little kitchen, put a few sticks together, made up the fire, and put on water to boil for tea. He was so weak, and his movements so slow, that the church clock struck five before he had completed these preparations, and then he sat down and waited. Six o'clock struck, and seven, and Mary did not return. His anxiety grew too exacting to be controlled, and, leaving the cottage, he dragged himself step by step along the street. The church was midway in the village, standing back within its iron-railed space, with the large old churchyard at the back, shaded by rows of lime trees and sloping down the hill toward the broad valley of Holm.

Allan passed through the open gate and along the path which he knew that other feet had trodden, until he reached the far end of the churchyard. There he leaned against a tree, near which there was a fresh made grave. The moonlight lay white on all else, but down over the grave a dark figure was crouching, motionless and silent. He stood silent for a moment, and then in a soft, tremulous whisper, he said—

"Come awa', my lass; coom!"

"Oh, father," she cried, shaken with a sudden passion of sorrow; "oh, father, I can't leave him here by himself, all out in the cold and dark. My boy, my boy, why have they taken my boy from me!"

And she stretched her arms out over the little mound, and passionately kissed the hard ground, and laid her cheek upon it.

Her husband stood silent for a time, and then he said, sadly—

"Ain't I nowt to tha, that thou waint coom back wi' ma? Thou's got me left, thou knaws."

And she rose and went to him, put her arms round him, and they wept together.

"God forgive me," she said; "I a'most forgot you; and you oughn't to be out. You dunno hardly how to stand. Lean on my shoulder, and we'll go home."

One windy morning in March, many weeks after the child's death, a farmer from Strood was driving slowly into Cheam. As he passed the Allan's garden he heard the tearing away of boards and sharp snap of broken wood, and, looking over the hedge, he saw Mary dragging at the planks of the pig-stye, and pulling them down one by one. Such willful destruction of property arrested his attention. He pulled up his horse, and, when his amazement had somewhat subsided, looked curiously at the woman. A fierce wind was blowing her ragged cotton gown and showing her bare feet and legs. She had neither shoes nor stockings, her long arms were quite brown, and her face was furrowed and old, her eyes sunken, and her hair streaked with gray.

Farmer Stokes, who knew her quite well, and had often spoken to her as he passed the cottage gate, lifted his hat and slowly scratched his head; then he said, "'Tain't the same woman," and drove on. But somehow or other, as he said afterward, he couldn't get her out of his mind. He began to recall the scattered information of the last few months, and to piece it together; the man was ill, and the child was dead, and he was in the County Court. He pulled up his horse again, and a feeling compounded of compassion and curiosity induced him to turn and drive back to the cottage.

He slipped the reins over the gate-post, and went to the front door and knocked.

After some delay he heard footsteps approaching. Mary had just one old apron left, and she had instinctively searched for it and put it on before opening the door. When she had done so, and stood before him, it occurred to her visitor for the first time that he ought to have made up his mind what to say.

They looked to each other, and then he began:

"I havn't seen you about for a good bit, Mrs. Allan, nor your husband neither, so as I was passing I thought I'd look in."

Mary did not speak. She expected nothing but evil, and thought as he was a church warden he possibly had power to torment her in some way.

"How is your husband?" said Mrs. Stokes, who was really kind-hearted, and was actuated by a dim desire of affording help, though it had not yet worked to the surface.

"Very bad," replied Mary.

"He's had fever, hasn't he?"

"Yes."

"Is he getting better?"

"No."

A slight spasm contracted her mouth as she answered; but she showed no other sign of emotion.

"No—the doctor says 'e's a dyin'. He's in a decline."

"Dear me, dear me. Why you'll be pinched this long 'bout. It's months and months since I've seen him. Is there anything you want now? because I'll ask my daughter just to step down and see what she can do for you."

Mary had listened unmoved whilst she expected reproof and possible menace, but the first words of kindness that had reached her ears were too much. She threw her apron over her head and began to cry.

"There now, don't cry; don't cry. I'll come in and sit down a minute. Why, God bless my soul, the room's empty. Why, what have you done with the furniture?"

"*He's* got it," she said, with a fierce gesture, pointing to the village. "There ain't a stick of it left—nothin' but an old mattrass as my poor man's a lyin' on. An' I paid 'im 'is bill; but there ain't no law agen his takin' the money, so as 'e ain't had it. And 'e ain't left me not so much as a chair to sit down on. Come and see."

And she led him up stairs to the bare rooms, and then down again to the little back kitchen, where, upon a mattrass stretched on the damp bricks, lay the wasted form of the sturdy north-countryman.

"Dear, dear. Why you'd have been better somewhere else!"

"Mebbe!" replied Allan, speaking in gasps and at intervals, "but we couldn't part at last. 'Tis hard to go to die in t' work us. Landlord said as we mud stay on."

"Oh! I didn't mean that. But you see this is a poor place to be in when you're bad. Those bricks are very damp. You should move him into the front room, missis; it's a boarded floor, and see how bright and warm it is. He'd be a deal better there."

"We never thought of that," said Mary. "He did not fancy bein' up stairs. There ain't any fireplace in them rooms, and he do like to see a bit o' fire."

"Well, light a fire in the parlor. You can do that? can't you?"

"Yes," said Allan, slowly; "and I'd like to be there. I'd like to see t' sun again, and trees i' t' wood. When dooer's open you can see reet away to Brenchley. Why, my lass, I could see tha' all t' way."

Mary was leaning against the wall in a kind of stupor, but she roused herself to say:

"I can drag in the bed before I go, if you think you can manage to get in."

"Are you going to Benchley to-day?" asked Mr. Stokes.

"Yes, I've got the last five shillings I shall have in this world. There ain'I nothin' more now, unless they take me—and I wish they would, and make an end of it."

"Come, come, keep up your courage. Things are never so bad they can't mend. I'll send my daughter and a bit of something for you, and we must see what can be done. I'd no notion you were in this state. Come now, don't give way. Just light a bit of fire in that front parlor. That's what you've got to do. Light a bit of fire."

He hurried away with an uneasy conscience and a feeling that somebody was to blame, and people ought not to be left to starve, and left Mary looking after him with a dream-feeling strong upon her. She seemed not to hear what he said while he was speaking, and then all the words came back afterward when she had ceased to try and listen.

Now as she listened to the gig wheels on the road, the words "Light a bit of fire" sounded in her ears, and she knelt mechanically before the parlor stove, and took away the faded fire-paper—too worthless even to burn. At the back of the old Downshire stoves there was in those days what used to be called an ash-hole, into which, during the summer, little odds and ends of withered flowers and rubbish of all kinds would be thrown. She pulled them out, and was about to carry them a way in her apron, when a bit of crumpled paper attracted her attention. As she touched it she felt the sickness of expectation and anticipation which she knew so well, and which had been followed by so many bitter disappointments. Still she unfolded the paper and smoothed it out, and then a deadly pallor spread over her face, great drops of sweat started from her brow, and slowly trickled down. She could not speak or move, but knelt before the fire-place holding by the bars of the grate. On a sudden the blood seemed to leap back to her heart. She started to her feet, and without uttering a word rushed out of the house.

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The Holmsdale woods were gay with primroses and wood anemones. The sweet scented early violets were all hidden among leaves, but the light winds that swept over them carried their odor afar. Long catkins hung from the hazels, and under the limbs there was a brilliant carpet of small crimson petals, for the buds had burst through their winter coverings, which lay thickly strewn on the ground. The yew trees were in blossom, and the slightest touch sent forth a cloud of golden dust; the great buds of the horse-chestnuts had burst through their resinous sheath, and were rapidly unfolding delicate fan-like leaves. Mary, as she hurried onward, turned her head rapidly from side to side, attracted by the color and odor and movement around her. The outward senses were vigilant, and seemed to be observant; but she could not even have told you that she was in a wood, for the connecting links between observation and intelligence seemed to have been snapped asunder. She stumbled and fell more than once over projecting logs and stones upon which her eyes were fixed, and rose and went on unobserved of scratches and bruises. Thus she passed along the high road, looking among the trees as the song of the nightingale fell upon her ears, and yet unconscious of the sound. She entered the town of Brenchley, and made her way mechanically through the crowd that filled the streets on market-day. Reaching the County Court, where she was now well known, she walked not to the seat which she usually occupied, but to the desk of the clerk who sat at the table beneath the judge. She stretched her hand over the man's head, and holding the paper toward the judge, strove in vain to speak. Her tongue, dry and parched, seemed fixed in her mouth, and she was unable to articulate. But the agony of appeal in her eyes could not be mistaken, and the judge, who had at first motioned to an official to remove her, stretched out his hand to receive what she offered. As he took it her tongue was unloosed, and in a low husky voice, she said:

"What's this?"

The judge, who had smoothed the paper out on his desk and put on his glasses to inspect it carefully, removed the hand which, according to his wont, he had been passing over his mouth and chin, and said, with unaccustomed keenness:

"Where did you get this?"

"What's that to you? Never you mind where I got it. You tell me what it is."

The poor creature was desperate, and the question seemed to imply distrust of the document. The usher laid his hand upon her arm, but the judge signed to him to leave her, and answered, as he leant forward and looked narrowly at her:

"It is a receipt. But I want you to tell me—"

"What receipt?" she gasped, rather than spoke.

"A receipt for eight pounds three shillings and fourpence, given on the sixteenth of September last. It is a baker's bill, and it is signed Walter Neville."

"Is that the money I've been paying 'im?"

"Yes; but if this receipt has been in your possession, why did you not produce it?" said the judge not unkindly.

"I'd lost it, and now I've found it. I told you I'd lost it, and I told you I'd paid it. And that's 'is writin'. You can see that, and 'e can't swear against that. And there's the hole where he shoved the pencil through the paper. Didn't I tell you he shoved the pencil through, and then begun to write again? And didn't I tell you I'd paid 'im, and wasn't my word as good as his? And you let 'im take all that money with nobody standin' by to say as 'e did or 'e didn't. And now look 'ere what you've done to me and mine." She paused for an instant in this passionate outburst, and continued more slowly:

"I'm starved, that's what I am. I'm starved to skin and bone; the child's dead, and my husband he's a dyin'; starved he is, like me. We ain't got bite nor sup in the house—nor a mouthful of victual—nor a rag of clothes, nor a morsel of all the bits of things as my poor father and mother worked all their lives to scrape together, and as we've worked for too the last six years. And look 'ere now, there 'e is," and she pointed to Neville, who was in the Court; "there 'e is as brought us to this, and I pray God A'mighty to cuss 'im as I cuss 'im, day and night, and risin' up and layin' down!

A man came forward and took her by the arm, and spoke kindly to her and led her to a seat. Every one in the building was standing up and leaning forward, and trying to look at her. For months she had been coming amongst them—proud and insolent at first, and received with jeers and taunting speeches, gradually growing quiet and even humble, imploring grace with tears, urging as a reason for it her child's death and the funeral expenses, her husband's illness, begging her creditor to have patience and she would pay. And they had grown accustomed to the worn face and the ragged clothes, but on this day there came back to the judge, and to many others also, a vision of her as she stood there seven months previously, bright and comely and well clad, with the pretty child in her arms.

And men and women at the far end of the court, who would not have turned their heads, even when she passed, were now standing on tiptoe, and crowding forward, and leaning on each other's shoulders to get a glimpse at her.

Neville was directed to go forward, and the judge handed the receipt to him.

"Is this your signature?" he said.

The man took it and stood for a moment silent, looking at it on all sides, and turning the paper backwards and forwards. Then he began to call God to witness that he had clean gone out of his head.

But he was sternly interrupted:

"Answer my question. Is that signature yours?"

"Well, sir, I must explain. I have such a number of these bills, and you see I must have forgotten to enter it in my book when I got home—"

"I don't want your explanation. Is this your signature?"

"Yes, sir, but—"

"That will do."

There was a moment's silence, and then, with more than his usual quietness, the judge spoke. Mary stood up to listen, but the words fell coldly on her ears. "Criminal negligence," the "probable necessity for ulterior proceedings" conveyed nothing to her mind. A few words at last told her that the money she had paid would be returned to her, that for every day she had attended the court she should receive compensation both for time and journey—probably at the rate of four or five shillings a day—that her case must have excited the compassion of all who had heard it, and he had no hesitation in saying that he considered her a very ill-used woman.

"It's all over now," said the voice of some one near her. "Sit down, missus, or lay hold o, me, and I'll take you out o' this place. You've had enough of this, I think."

She looked round her for a moment, and then, stooping, she felt on the bench at her side, passed her hands over it and round it, and lifted up her empty arms. Then with a great cry she fell senseless to the ground.

"It's the little kid as she was a feeling for," said one of those present, drawing his coat sleeve across his eyes: "he used to stand up there on the seat by her side. I've sin him many a time. He wur as pretty a little chap as you'd see in a day's walk."

They carried her out in the fresh air, and once again a crowd gathered round her. A woman knelt down by her side, untied her bonnet strings, took the pin from her shawl, and chafed her hands, and men stood round with their hands in their pockets, looking down at the wasted form. "Just look 'ere!" said one, "she's bin on the square all the time, and 'taint bin no use."

"Drink!" said another contemptuously; "she ain't drunk much, whatever they may say, nor eat neither. Why she ain't nothing but a bundle o' bones."

A man had left the court who tried to pass unobserved by the group that surrounded Mary, but, without a word spoken, every one seemed to make way for him, till he was hustled and pushed to the front. He looked uneasily round him, and in a whining tone began, "I give you my word of honor, gentlemen—"

"Oh, d—n you," said a big fellow, turning savagely upon him; "shut up, and get out o' this. We'll make it hot for you before we've done with you. You may take your oath of that."

Neville turned and made his way to a small cart standing by the roadside. He heard angry growls on all sides of him, and thought he would not go back to Cheam just at once, but would wait until nightfall and enter the village unobserved.

Meanwhile, with many moans and long-drawn sighs, Mary was regaining consciousness. She sat up and opened her eyes, and with strangely dilated pupils began to look around her.

"I'm to have my money back," she said, and my time, and my journeys. Lor' what a lot o' time I've bin here. That'll make a deal of money, that will; and compensation, he said. And what did he say I was?" and she looked round with wide, pathetic eyes.

"Well 'e said you was a ill-used 'ooman, missus, and that's just about what you are. I'm blowed if ever I sin a wuss."

"Yes, he said I was a ill-used woman," she repeated, rising slowly, and saying the words over and over again.

"You come along of me, dear, and have a cup of tea," said the woman who had been kneeling by her side, "and then I'll go a bit o' the way home with you."

"Why I'm going to Cheam myself," said a burley farmer, in a tone that implied some astonishment at the discovery of his own intentions, "and if you jump up in the cart I'll put you down at your own door."

But Mary walked on, unobservant of these offers.

"She's a bit crazy-like, poor soul," said another woman. "Better let her be—she'll go straight home."

"Well, she shan't go empty-handed," exclaimed the farmer, and diving down into his breeches pocket for a shilling, he laid it upon his open palm, and said, "Who'll marrow me that?"

Two or three shillings, a few smaller coins, and some halfpence were speedily laid upon his hand, and with them he hurried after Mary.

"Here, missis, we've put a trifle together for you, and we'll see what we can do for you before long. Tell your husband I hope I shall see him about again soon, and if he wants a job let him come to me; or you either, for the matter of that."

Mary stood for a moment with the same unobservant face, but as the kind tones fell upon her ear and the money was put into her palm, and her fingers pressed down upon it by a large friendly hand, a smile lighted up her face. Looking up with something of her own old frank expression, she courtesied and said,

"And I thank you kindly, sir."

Some hours later a laborer, who was passing through the woods, saw a motionless figure in the boat by the side of the little jetty that stretched out into the pond. He watched it for a few minutes, and then turning aside he went down the narrow path leading to the water's edge. There in the prow of the boat, leaning over and looking fixedly into the water, sat Mary Allan. He spoke to her, but she did not answer; and as he had just come from Brenchley, which was resounding with the story of her wrongs, he did not pass on as he would probably have done otherwise, but stepped into the boat, and, touching her on the shoulder, asked her if it was not time for her to be going home?

She looked up at him, and then, pointing to a white glimmer in the water beneath her, said: "What's that?"

"That?" he replied, looking over the edge of the boat. "Why, that's your own image in the water."

"No, it ain't she said; "'tis the child."

"Not it!" he exclaimed.

"But I tell you 'tis the child. My Lady she was up there on the bank, and she pointed to the water as I came and looked, and there was the child."

"I tell you 'tain't no such a thing. Come away home. 'Twain't no good thinkin' about things like them. Why my Lady's bin dead and buried this two months. So just see what nonsense you've a talking. Come home, do!"

He took her by the arm and she followed him. "Glad enough I was," he said afterward, "to get her away, for she looked as mad as a crazy dame."

It was dusk before she reached home, and firelight was gleaming through the window of the long unused parlor. She opened the door, and her husband's voice fell upon her ears.

"Why, my lass, I've bin fairly moped about tha. I thwot thou was to settle ma thysel'. And thou ra's aff and says howt at 'a."

He was too weak to speak without frequent pauses; and the feeble voice, the catch in his breath, and the painful effort which it cost him to say even a few words, attracted his wife's attention and excited her fears.

"Ain't you so well, father?" she asked anxiously, drawing near the mattrass, which was placed on a low wooden bedstead.

"Better lass, much better. Miss Stokes brought somebody wi' her, and they fastened up t' bed and gat ma in and med ma drop of broth. I'm as reet as reet now. An' there's a teapot for thee, and a bit o' summit on t' hob."

Mary was watching him keenly. "If I tell him all at once," she thought, "it will kill him. Why, it very near killed me." So she sat down by his side and took his hand and stroked it. "There ain't much of it left, is there?" said he.

"But I think your are gittin' better father," she said, in a tone that sounded almost like entreaty.

"Na, na, nor niver sall i' this warld. Things is a' wrong together, and aw don't see what's to be done. But we mun ha' patience; we mun ha' patience."

"Look 'ere now. I couldn't never bring myself to ask you afore, but you'll tell me true, John, won't you? Did you ever think as I'd done anything with that money, or made away with it?

He started and turned upon her with such sudden angry eyes that she knelt by his side, and began to say:

"I didn't mean to put you out. You know I didn't, but everybody's bin against me, and you've never said as you was sure I'd paid it. You've only kep' on sayin' if I'd paid it I'd got the receipt. And then sometimes I've a thought you was like all the others, and didn't believe as I'd paid it at all." Allan's anger faded out he saw her trembling by his side.

"You've na reet to say sic a thing," he continued, gravely; "but there, thou's had a hard time on't poor lass. But I niver thowt thou'd turned on ma. What I allus said I say noo. Thou'lt find the bill some day."

She laid her head beside him on the pillow, and said:

"You always was such a clever old chap. Your words'll come true, you see if they don't. And look 'ere what I've got;" and she untied a corner of her shawl and took out the coins in it one by one. "Master Barnett give 'em me; an' 'e says when you've ready for a job you've only got to go to 'im."

Allan raised himself with difficulty, and sat looking at her, his breath coming fast.

"Thou's foond it; I knaw thou has. That's whar thou's bin all day. Whar is it, lass, whar is it? Show it ma. Show it ma."

She put it into his trembling hands, and he smoothed it out upon the bedclothes, and spelt out the words and went over the figures. And Mary began the story of how she found it, and all that had happened since. As she talked on every other feeling sank before her desire of vengeance upon Neville. She attributed to him not only their poverty and suffering, but her husband's illness and the child's death.

"I'll see him hung for it," she exclaimed, "and I'll walk fifty miles to see him swing."

"Na, na, lass, they'll niver hang him. 'Tisn't so bad as all that. I've thowt about it agen and agen. I knaw he's a rogue, and he's bin divilish hard. But somehow it don't seem all wrang as it did to begin with. Thou see there's Yan that knaws reet from wrang, an' if we're reet we're aside o' Him. I seem to see it as clear, and thou'll see it, too, some day; but I'm fairly tewed wi' talking."

He leaned back exhausted, and Mary sat silent by his side. Before long, shouts from men and boys in the village street fell upon their ears, a rattling and beating and shaking of tin pots and pans; songs and whistling, and an indescribable babel of sound.

"What's that?" said Allan.

"Why that must be rough music," said Mary. "I ain't heard it since I were a child. They gave old Tommy Giles rough music for turning his wife out o' doors one night, and they broke the ice on the horse-pond here at the end of the road, and give him a good duckin'. He died the next day, so it's bin put down ever since."

"That'll be what we ca' ringin' stang in our own country. I'se tell tha' about it, some day."

Suddenly there was a great shout of "There he is: that's him!" and all other noises were replaced by the heavy tramp of hob-nailed boots and cries of "Hold un, stop un! Dang it, don't let un go! That ain't 'im! This way; this way. That's 'im behind the haystack!"

The footsteps and voices had been drawing nearer, but now they seemed to take another direction, and the cottage was silent again.

Presently they heard the click of the garden-gate, and stealthy steps on the garden-path. The cottage door was cautiously opened and carefully shut again, and locked and bolted by some one who had entered.

"Who's there?" exclaimed Mary.

"Git a leet," said Allan.

"No, no!" was uttered in a tremulous whisper. "For God's sake be quiet. Don,t stir; it's as much as my life is worth if they get hold of me."

A thrill of recognition shot through Allan and his wife.

It was Neville. He was wild with terror, and as Mary held a candle to the fire he sprang to the window-shutters and closed and barred them. Then, by the dim light of the tallow candle, as he looked round he saw the white faces that were turned towards him. He fell upon his knees, and implored them to have mercy upon him.

"I didn't know where I was coming to, nor where I was. I was creeping along under the hedge when I got away from them, and I saw a bit of firelight through the window. But I didn't know where it was. Don't give me up for God's sake. It's as much as my life is worth. There ain't nothing as you can name that I won't give for my life. And I've a wife and seven children at home."

Mary listened intently. Then came into her face a savage, eager look whilst he pleaded for his life, as of a wild animal waiting for his prey, and her hands worked convulsively.

At length she said, in a hoarse whisper—

"You can't stir, father, but I can drag 'im along. I'll stick to 'im and keep on hollerin', and they'll soon come." And she went towards the door.

Neville threw himself on his knees before her, and implored her to spare him. But it was in vain. She spurned him with her foot, and tried to pass. He was desperate, his life was at stake, and he seized and tried to hold her back. Then, filled with sudden strength and fury, she dashed him from her, and he fell, stunned and bruised, against the wall, and lay there insensible.

"I'll get a stick," she said, turning to her husband with glaring eyes, "and quiet him till they comes up."

"Thou'll stop whar thou is," said he, sternly. "Does ta' mean to murder 'im, and me here a deeing? Thou'll stop wi' me."

"Look here, father—you ain't a goin' to let 'im off, not if you've the 'eart of a man. I needn't hit 'im again. I'll just open the door and holler out as 'e's here."

"Mary," said Allan, raising slowly in the bed and sitting up as he looked at her with great appealing eyes, "come here my lass and sit down wi' me. I'se not lang for this warld, lass, and thou'll see it plain enough if thou looks at ma. Somehow I can't hide to see tha botherin' and fetchin', not though its for me and child. Seems as if it had nowt to do w' t' churchyard I'm gawin' to, nar wi' t' time as we've bin togither and bin so happy, and had lile lad wi' us an' aw. And now I'se gawin' down to him, and I shall be a thinkin' and thinkin' o' tha, like I is now. And eh, lass, but I'd like tha to do somtaut real grand, like as if thou was to forgie the man and let him ga. Why it 'ud be like partin' wi' your life to do it, and seems to me as if I could lie there and think of it o'er and o'er again, and niver git tired of it till thou comes to ma. And I couldn't bear to think o' that fella's death lyin' at my dooer like as i' t' wad. Mind tha' it wad part us, it wad part us 'i t' grave; and we niver hev been parted sen we come togither. Let him ga, lass—let him ga. Porr meeserable beggar! and ax the Lord to forgie him, as I do."

Long before this speech, interrupted by many pauses and broken by his incessant cough, was finished, Allan had sank back on his bed. As he pleaded, his voice grew more and more feeble, and the words came in gasps. Mary stood in silence by his side, the candle was burning low in the socket, it spluttered and went out. Neville, who had recovered, was afraid to move or speak. The feeble spark of red in the fire gave no light in the room, and the voice of the dying man came like a sob to startle the listeners at long intervals. Then there was a silence, broken by hasty steps upon the gravel, the sound of many voices, and a loud knocking at the door.

Mary turned slowly and opened it, and a voice out of the darkness said—

"Missis, that old raskil got away from us somehow; but we'll tar and feather 'im afore the night's over, and duck 'im in the horse-pond and all. Sammy Higgs has just bin to tell us that as 'e was a comin' from Brenchley an hour ago, he sees the old bloke sneakin' up this path. Just give us a light, and we'll 'ave a look round and see if he's a hidin' anywheers about the place."

Mary heard a breath drawn fast and sharp in the darkness behind her, like some hunted creature in the woods panting with fear, and her heart gave one wild leap for joy. Then she clenched her hands and pressed them together, as if to keep back something with which she was struggling, as she said slowly—

"My husband's very bad, as bad as 'e can be; and I'd thank you kindly if you'd not make a noise and come about the place just now."

"Beg your pardon, missis, and very sorry fur to hear it; but we thought as how he shouldn't sneak away and get off."

"Thank you kindly," she said; "but please don't make no noise." And she shut the door and turned the key.

There was a whispered consultation outside, and then a sound of retreating footsteps along the pebbly path. Mary went back to the bed and laid her head down on the pillow. The tears which had so long forsaken her eyes began to flow, and her frame was shaken by sobs. Her husband turned, and put one hand upon her head, and said—

"'Tis a fine lass, and a bonny lass. God bless thee, Mary!"

An hour later all the sounds in the village were hushed. Neville's friends had spread a report that he had got home and was in his own house. The one policeman from Strood had arrived, and peace was restored.

Mary left the bedside, and feeling her way to the back door, called out in a cold and constrained tone—

"Come along!"

And Neville groped his way to the gleam of moonlight which the open door admitted.

"Go down the garden and over the stile into the forty acre. You can get to your house then by the back way."

The man had crouched so long in that room in deadly terror that he was completely unnerved. Holding by the door, trembling and crying, he tried to utter some words of thanks, and some promises for the future. But at the sound of his voice Mary, with an expression of disgust, turned away. She could not trust herself to listen to him, for she felt as if she must seize some weapon and strike him to the earth. She went back to her husband's side and in the night he died.

She seemed to have known it all before. She sat by his side, when all was over and her last offices fulfilled, not thinking, but waiting. There was something else to come; she did not know what it was, but something that she waited for. Perhaps it was the day, for when long rays of light stole through chinks in the shutter and cracks in the door she watched them. Then the voices of the birds fell upon her ear; the blackbird's whistle was like a call, and the thrush sang his loud clear notes over and over again, as if to make her understand. She rose from the bedside, opened the door, and stood in the cottage porch. How pitiless the day was; bright sun and clear sky, soft woods and springing flowers; nothing felt for her in heaven or earth; nothing was left to her. The day and the sunshine and the fullness of life fell like a veil between her and the dead; and spoke of eternal separation. In the desolate room with her dying husband little Jack had seemed very near to them. Now, father and child were together, and she was alone. Everything was changed. It was not death, but life, that she dreaded; life which was to part her from all she loved; life which would surround her and shut her in, and keep voices and hands from reaching her.

She looked toward the village. Here and there a thin thread of smoke told of cottage fires already kindled. The neighbors would have heard the truth about her the previous evening, and would be coming before long. Where should she hide herself? How could she escape? Her eyes wandered over the trees toward Brenchley, and there came back to her the sweet scent of violets, which she had passed unnoticed at the time—violets covered with green leaves and with dew. How fond he was of them? He used to gather them on his way home from work, and bring them to her for a posy, as he called it. She would fetch some now, and place a bunch between the hands that she had folded on his breast. And with this thought she left the house, and passed unnoticed to the woods.

Early that day, women from the village, and a messenger from the Hall, visited the cottage. After some delay they entered. The dead man had been tenderly and carefully stretched out on his wretched bed, but there was no sign of Mary. She had gone to Strood, they thought, to buy food, as she had long been in the habit of doing, so as to escape unfriendly remarks. Then, as the day wore on, they imagined that she had walked to Brenchley to see the undertaker who had buried her child. But in the afternoon it was known that she had not been seen in either place, and then a vision of the poor creature, wild with despair, made frantic by the injustice of her suffering and her solitude, began to appall them. Where was she? What had she done to herself?

"You had better go down to the ponds," said the man who told the story of how he had brought her home the previous evening. And they went. Looking over the side of the boat, they saw a glimmer as of light clothing, and drew up a heavy form, still and white, which they carried back and laid on the bed beside her husband. In her hand she still clasped a bunch of violets, and the expression of her face was tranquil.

Beneath the lime trees in the old churchyard there are three grassy graves, and that in the middle is a child's. "Little Jack, he do lie there," say the village children; but the elders whom they address pass on in silence, not insensible to the mute reproach of those green mounds.

A Springfield Romance.

If we were in the line of fiction writing we should want no better basis for a prize Sunday School book than the facts which have occurred, recently, within the knowledge of several parties in this vicinity, and which we will proceed to relate in the order in which they occurred, with no attempt at elaboration or garnishment. Many a novel has been founded on much less interesting and not so well certified history as that contained in our "plain, unvarnished tale." About 15 years ago, a young woman living in her home in Monson, became possessed with the desire to go West and teach school. In the town of Anamosa, Iowa, she found her vocation, and, by and by, a husband. He was the youngest and indulged son of a wealthy widow. The happy couple set out early on the matrimonial sea, both being only about nineteen years of age. When our heroine wrote to her father in Monson of her plans, he went on to Iowa for a few months' visit, and, being pleased with his daughter's prospects, built and furnished a house for her. The mother of the young husband gave him a fine farm, well stocked and equipped, and no other young couple ever started in life with brighter prospects. In a short time, however, bad speculations and mismanagement had stripped her husband of all his property. His pride was terribly mortified by this turn of affairs, and, in sudden desperation, he left his home, his wife and infant daughter, and enlisted in one of the first regiments which was raised to put down the rebellion. His family received a few letters from him, and then came an unbroken silence. In vain they wrote to him, and then to his officers and comrades. He was reported among the missing. The wife or widow—she knew not which—at length returned to her Monson home, and afterwards came to this city and entered the employ of Tinkham & Co., proving herself capable and efficient in their millinery department.

At the end of five years she revisited her husband's friends in Iowa, and soon married a gentleman there, having first, for the sake of certainty, obtained a divorce from her long lost husband, although really supposing herself a widow. In a few months after this marriage, this second husband died and the lady again returned to her New England home (twice widowed, as she supposed) and soon was in her old place at Tinkham's.

Some months ago,—and this is one of the strangest incidents in this eventful history,—she dreamed that a hack called at her boarding house, and took her to the Massasoit house, where she met her missing husband, to whom she was united in marriage. The dream, of course made a deep impression on her mind, but as months wore away and nothing came of it, she regarded it more as "only a dream." But one day, last fall, a letter reached the post office in Anamosa, directed to her. Some one who knew her, caused it to be re-directed to this city. It so happened that she was absent on a visit at the time, and after remaining in the Springfield post office awhile it was returned to Iowa. Her friends there then enclosed it in another envelope, and sent it here again, and it finally reached her as she was at her work in Tinkham's store. On opening it she nearly fainted. It was from her first husband, from whom, or of whom, not a lisp had been heard by his friends for thirteen years. It stated that he was in the wilds of Texas following the hazardous life of the rancheros. He had left home with the determination of never returning until he had made good his shattered fortunes. Several times he had so far redeemed this vow, that he was on the point of seeking his family and friends, when some turn of the wheel of fortune had dashed him back to poverty. At length the fickle goddess had favored him and he was rich again. Whether his wife was living, whether she was the mother of another man's family, and a host of other questions asked, she hastened to answer. Other letters were written by both, but all failed, by reason of hostile Indians, faithless carriers, etc., of reaching their destination. But the one as-suring him that his wife was still his own and telling where she could be found, was enough.

Some time afterward a stranger inquired one afternoon at the Massasoit house if there was such a firm as Tinkham & Co., in the city. Being assured on this point, he called a hack-man and told him to drive to their store and bring Mrs.——to the hotel. She was not at the store and the hack-driver was directed to her boarding place, where he found her, and—the dream was proved true! The meeting is not for us to describe.

The next evening there was a wedding at the house of a prominent clergyman of this city, and the bride was a woman who was then married the third time, yet had had but two husbands, and by their side stood a blooming miss of fourteen to witness the marriage of her own legitimate father and mother.

This romance ends happily as all such stories should. After visiting friends in various parts of the north this winter, the husband will return to Texas and settle up his extensive business as cattle dealer, and then return to spend the rest of his life with his family, either to his Iowa home, or with his wife's friends at the east.

Our Enoch Arden is a highly educated and cultivated gentleman, and, notwithstanding his long exile from civilized life, re-enters society with ease and grace. His account of life on the south-western frontier; of the vast business carried on by the cattle herders and speculators; of pastures 40 miles wide by 80 miles long; of the nature of the country and the wild inhabitants, and how the government regulates the trade and employs inspectors (of whom he became one) to see that their regulations are complied with; how for years no white woman's face was seen by the rovers,—all this would alone make an interesting volume. There are many educated men among the rancheros, some of them even graduates of New England colleges, but we trust not another one has a wife and family who have not for more than a decade known whether to mourn him as dead, or to hope against hope for his return.—*Springfield Union.*

The Enterprise and Boxer.

An article by Capt. Geo. Henry Preble, U. S. N., appears in the last number of the Historical and Genealogical Register, and gives the following account of the business which brought the Boxer to the coast of Maine sixty years ago:

Mr. Charles Tappan, the venerable surviving brother of Arthur and Lewis Tappan, was a Boston merchant at the outbreak of the war of 1812. Such was then the condition of our manufactures that, to use Mr. Tappan's own words, our soldiers "were clad in British cloths and slept under British blankets." "It was understood no captures would be made of British goods owned by citizens of the United States, and many American merchants imported, via Halifax and St. John, N. B., their usual stock of goods." In 1813, Mr. Tappan made a venture of this kind in a brig flying Swedish colors, which left St. John in September for Bath, where the goods were to be entered and duty regularly paid on them. As American privateers were the only enemies to be dreaded, Mr. Tappan and his associates engaged H. B. M. Brig *Boxer* to convoy the *Margaretta*, and in return for this service Capt. Blyth received a bill of exchange on London for $100. When near the mouth of the Kennebec, the *Boxer*, as had been agreed upon, to avert suspicion, fired two or three guns as if in pursuit of its charge. Unluckily the sound reached the ears of Lieut. Barrows commanding the U. S. Brig *Enterprise*, which the day before had left Portland for a cruise eastward, and coming up with the *Boxer* on the 5th was immediately engaged in a sanguinary conflict, fatal to both commanders, and resulting in the capture of the *Boxer*. "Our bill of exchange," says Mr. Tappan, "we thought might in some wey cause us trouble, and we employed Esquire K. to take five hundred specie dollars on board the captured ship and exchange them for the paper, which was found in Capt. Blyth's breeches pocket."

Our Young Folks' Column.

THE THREE BUGS.

Three little bugs in a basket,
And hardly room for two!
And one was yellow, and one was black,
And one like me or you;
The space for all, no doubt, was small,
So what should three bugs do?

Three little bugs in a basket,
And hardly crumbs for two;
And all were selfish in their hearts,
The same as I or you;
So the strong ones said, "We will eat the bread,
And that's what we will do!"

Three little bugs in a basket,
And the beds but two would hold;—
And so they fell to quarreling—
The white, the black, and the gold—
And two of the bugs got under the rugs,
And one was out in the cold.

He that was left in the basket
Without a crumb to chew,
Or a shred to wrap himself withal
When the wind across him blew,
Pulled one of the rugs from under the bugs,
And so the quarrel grew.

So there was war in the basket;
Ah, pity 'tis, 'tis true!
But he that was frozen and starved, at last
A strength from his weakness drew,
And pulled the rugs from both of the bugs,
And killed and ate them too!

Now, when bugs live in a basket,
Though more than it well can hold,
It seems to me they had better agree—
The black, the white, and the gold—
And share what comes of beds or crumbs,
And leave no bug in the cold.

The Old Fisherman's Story.

A little bright-faced boy just put a match to the kindling wood of the grate, and was watching the flame as it forced its way among the crackling coal, when, half in thought and half aloud, he said, "Who would think a little match would make so big a fire?"

"Ah, yes, my little man," said his father, "a little match, like other little things, may do great good or great harm. A good apostle once said, 'Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth.' And now, as our fire is burning, I will tell you a story about a little match, and the good that it did."

"Far away down on the shore of the British Channel stands a small fisherman's cabin. It is just far enough from the water to be out of the reach of the great waves that come rolling from the Irish Channel; and near it is a creek, or little river, in which the fisherman used to shelter his boat. At the time of my story the man happened to have left his little cabin, and gone to Tenby. It was market day there, and as the weather was rough and wintry, he had stayed away from home. It was desolate and dreary about that little house on the cold December day of which I am speaking. A dull, leaden sky; a cold, keen blast, sweeping up clouds of sand along the shore; the moaning of the sea birds, and the regular beat of the waves upon the shore formed the total of the sights and sounds on the coast that day.

"A strong wind had been blowing for three days, and all who thought of the sailor at sea prayed to God to keep him from its dangers. A good brig had just made the entrance of the Channel, and was beating up towards Bristol. She had a captain, mate and six sailors for her crew. Their voyage had been a pleasant one, and was now nearly over. They were thinking of their homes and friends when the fierce storm came on. The rigging was stiff with ice, and it was hard to handle the ropes or manage the ship. The men did their duty, as all true English sailors will do; but it was in vain. The winds, and the waves, and the bitter cold were too strong for them, brave as they were, and carried the poor brig steadily towards the shore. Soon they heard a sound terrible to seamen; it was the noise of the breakers. The captain called all hands about him, and raised his voice in prayer. He prayed for their safety, if God so willed it, that they might have strength to meet the fierce waves, and that if they could not be saved from shipwreck, they might be safe in the mercy of God.

"The brig soon struck, and as she lay with her side to the shore, the water, for a little space was so calm that the small boat was safely launched, and every man seated in it. But alas! before they could reach the shore a great wave struck the little boat, and the poor men were cast into the boiling sea. Four of them, with the captain, reached the land, and though scarcely able to move, dragged themselves forward to find shelter. They raised a shout when they came in sight of the little cabin; but alas! there was the creek between it and them. 'We must go through or die,' said the captain; and after a great struggle, in their tired state, they reached the other side; but the brave captain could go no further. 'Leave me, my men,' said he; 'get help for yourselves, and then come back, if you can.' The men gained the house, but were horrified to find it empty. One man only took heart as he looked at the fire place and the wood near it. But alas, there was neither flint nor steel to strike a light. A moment he stood in agony: but as he raised his head, he saw upon the rude mantle a small box marked 'matches.' With trembling haste he seized it, and found one single little match! O, how much depended on that little match. Here were four sailors; a little way off lay their brave captain. All their lives depended, one might say, upon that single match. It it failed, all must die; for cold and hunger were fast doing their work upon the poor men. With a trembling hand and a silent prayer he drew the match; and as the little feeble flame broke out, 'Thank God!' burst from the men.

"They soon managed to make the wood catch fire; and as the bright blaze shot up, the glare brought relief to the poor captain, who lay on the beach too weak to crawl.

"The feeling that now he should be saved helped to keep him alive. When the sailors came to where he lay, he was nearly gone; but they hurried him in, and gardually he revived.

"Remember how much good a thing that seems so insignificant as a match can do."—*Christian Leader.*

Better Whistle than Whine.

As I was taking a walk early in September, I noticed two little boys on their way to school. The smaller stumbled and fell, and though he was not very much hurt, he began to whine in a babyish way,—not a regular roaring boy-cry as though he were half-killed, but a little cross whine.

The older boy took his hand in a kind and fatherly way, and said:

"Oh, never mind, Jimmy; don't whine; it is a great deal better to whistle."

And he began in the merriest way a cheerful boy-whistle.

Jimmy tried to join in the whistle.

"I can't whistle as nice as you, Charlie," said he; "my lips won't pucker up good."

"Oh, that is because you have not got all the whine out yet," said Charlie; "but you try a minute, and the whistle will drive the whine away."

So he did, and the last I saw or heard of the little fellows, they were whistling away as earnestly as though that was the chief end of life. I learned a lesson which I hope I shall not soon forget, and it called out these few lines, which may possibly cheer another whiner of mature years, as this class is by no means confined to the children.

It is better to whistle than whine;
It is better to laugh than to cry,
For though it is cloudy, the sun will soon shine
Across the blue, beautiful sky.

It is better to whistle than whine,
O man, with the sorrowful brow;
Let the words of the child scatter murmers of thine,
And gather his cheerfulness now.

It is better to whistle than whine,
Poor mother! so weary with care,
Thank God for the love and the peace that are thine
And the joy of thy little ones share.

It is better to whistle than whine,
Though troubles you find in your way,
Remember that wise little fellow, of mine,
And whistle your whining away.

God bless that brave boy for the cheer
He brought to this sad heart of mine;
When tempted to murmur, that young voice I hear,
"It is better to whistle than whine!"

How John made it Up.

He had failed somewhere—in study or deportment, I can not remember which—and his teacher told him he must stay after school. When the other scholars were dismissed, John seized a moment when the teacher's back was turned, and slid out of the door. She called after him to come back, but he pretended not to hear, and ran away. It was a cute trick, he thought, and he bragged over it a little to the other boys; but he did not go to school the next day nor the next. He did not feel like it, he said.

At last he made his appearance again, but instead of the punishment he expected, his teacher, who was giving out the subjects for essays that day, only told him to "write a composition about obedience." John took her meaning at once, and sat scratching his head and puzzling over his composition about half a day. Finally he handed in the following, which is an actual copy of John's composition:

"When won tells won to do a thing, and he *does* it, it is called obeying, and when won tells won to do a thing and he *dont* do it, it is called disobeying. And when a man or woman tells a boy or girl to do a thing and he dont do it it is called disobeying, and when a teacher tells a boy to do a thing and he does it it is called obeying. The boy's name was John, and he did not obey his teacher, and when she called him back he *did* hear her, and he will never do it again."

The teacher was satisfied.—*Youth's Companion.*

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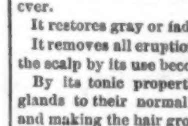

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